WORLD / A26

'Kumpadres' brings tomorrow's news on Radyo Inquirer

By Karen Boncocan and Katherine Evangelista
Inquirer.net

OFFERING A foretaste of tomorrow's headlines today—this is how the partnership behind "Kumpadres" of dxIQ Radyo Inquirer 990 hopes to stand out among late-afternoon AM radio programs.

Anchoring the news and current affairs show from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday are veteran broadcaster

FILIPINOMICS / A11

Indon tsunami kills 23, leaves scores missing

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Willie asks: Is it money or bad news?

LIFESTYLE / C1

Back to the raw, rustic and natural but expertly made

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 27, 2010 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 321 P18

BUSINESS / B1

Cebu Pacific stock offer raises P23.3B; makes global history

'Controlled poll chaos'

Vietnam can teach us to grow food—Noy

By Leila B. Salaverria

HANOI—In a reversal of roles, Filipinos will try and seek from Vietnam lessons in agriculture.

President Aquino yesterday said that the Philippines had much to learn from its Vietnamese counterparts about the efficient use of land and equipment in agriculture.

Mr. Aquino, who arrived here at noon for his first state visit, said that he intended to share knowledge and experiences with Vietnam, noting that it has become the Philippines' "major crutch in terms of our own food security."

The International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines taught rice planting tech-

VIETNAM / A10

Foreign authors back UP law profs

By Nikko Dizon

THE AUTHORS of one of the works from which parts were lifted by a Supreme Court justice in the course of writing a decision have come to the defense of the law professors facing sanction for calling for his resignation.

"Abuse of judicial power" was how professors Evan Fox-Decent (not Descent, as had earlier been reported) and Evan J. Criddle described the high court's demand to 37 faculty members of the University of

FOREIGN / A6

P-NOY WITH UNCLE HO President Aquino poses for a photo in front of the statue of the late Vietnamese revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi on Tuesday. The President is in Vietnam for a state visit and the Asean summit from Oct. 20 to 30. REUTERS

Comelec to look into 'sabotage' claims

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONTROLLED CHAOS.

This was how a Commission on Elections (Comelec) insider described how certain personnel of the poll body allegedly delayed the delivery of election materials in the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections for monetary gain.

The source, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak on the issue, said some Comelec employees and officials deliberately caused the delays because they wanted to get a share of the P230-million budget for delivering voting materials.

"It was controlled chaos. They delayed it until the last minute," the source said.

Largely due to the delay in the delivery of voting paraphernalia, Monday's elections in 2,463 of the 42,025 barangays were postponed, drawing sharp criticisms of the Comelec by lawmakers and local officials.

A blame game has ensued because of the postponement of elections in 5.86 percent of the country's barangays.

Sen. Miguel Zubiri said Malacañang should have heeded the plea of Congress to postpone the village and youth polls because the Comelec was ill-prepared to hold another election) exercise as soon after the May national elections.

In the House of Representa-

CONTROLLED / A6

'Heads or tails' to break electoral ties

THE FATE of candidates who tied for posts in Monday's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections will be determined through a game of chance.

Lots will be drawn for such candidates, including two running for barangay captain in Quezon City, and hopefuls seeking SK seats in Victorias, Tarlac, and in Baliuag City and the towns of Marilao and Orani in Bataan.

"Whoever is drawn is the winner," Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said yesterday, citing Section 240 of the Omnibus Election Code.

Sarmiento said the drawing of lots was a common occurrence in barangay and SK elec-

HEADS / A6

Election snafus probed

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER RECEIVING flak from various sectors, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday created a fact-finding committee to determine what caused the delays in the delivery of election paraphernalia for the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

At a press conference, Comelec Commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Armando Velasco said the fact-finding committee would determine who should be held liable for the delays and how these would be avoided in the future.

The committee is expected to submit its recommendations to the Comelec after two weeks.

"We created the committee to show we are serious in looking into and listening out the truth

ELECTION / A6

GOODBYE, PAUL The "octopus oracle" predicted Spain's victory in the World Cup.

Paul the octopus is dead

FRANKFURT, Germany—Paul the Octopus, the tentacled tipster who fascinated football fans by extremely predicting results at this year's World Cup, died Tuesday.

Paul had reached the octopus old age of 2½ years and died in his tank on Tuesday morning in

PAUL / A18

Walkman, 31: Sony pulls plug on iconic casette player

NEW YORK—The Walkman, the Sony cassette device that forever changed music listening before becoming outdated by digital MP3 players and iPods, has died. It was 31 years old.

Sony announced on Monday that it has ceased production of the classic cassette tape Walkman in Japan, effectively sounding the death knell of the once iconic, now obsolete device.

Models on the company's Japanese website were marked "production completed."

WALKMAN / A17

Wood, with a gift for burning

By Antonio Calipio Go

(Editor's Note: The writer is academic supervisor of Marian School of Quezon City and a self-styled "toyMoods crusader" who has told the Inquirer a reversal of family for-

COMMENTARY

tune had forced him to quit formal schooling after high school.)

I WENT to see the sea again, the last time I was in Bataan. The beach was as I remember it, when, as a boy, I was brought there to play by my mother, when she was still young and lovely and all the world and all the future lay before her like a summer meadow. A lot has changed. Now it is I who brings my mother to see the sea, telling her it's all right to play with the waves, to catch the ball, to not be afraid.

Now, I, too, am old, dark hair flowing into evening, and then night. But the beach and its constantly shifting but guileless sands remain as they must have been on the day of Creation, that morning of love. My mother and I, we are truly puny, the

WOOD / A18

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Rain
Dagupan	Mostly Cloudy	Rain
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Thunder
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Koronadal	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy

6/49 1 10 27 27 20 24

SUPER LOTTO 6/49 6 1 3 0 4 4 0 1 8

SIXD DIGIT 7 2 3 6 8 7

4-DIGIT MULTI-BET 12 13 20 21 24 34

P14,234,774.40

SUPER LOTTO 6/49 21 22 26 29 33 35

P152,513,661.60

Palace seeks review of VFA

Aquino wants no repeat of Daniel Smith custody row

By Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

THE AQUINO administration is reexamining the custody provisions of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), saying it does not want to see a repeat of the case of a US Marine confined inside the United States Embassy even after a Philippine court had convicted him of raping a Filipino woman.

The provisions on custody are some of the points that the review panel is looking at for improvements, said Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa.

Ochoa earlier said the government wants some "refinements" in the VFA so the country can get the maximum benefits from the treaty which governs the treatment of US forces participating in joint military exercises here.

Bone of contention

"One of the main bones of contention and opposition is the custody of soldiers who might violate our criminal laws especially, rather, in the unthinkable offense," Ochoa said in a press interview.

He recalled the recent case of US Lance Corporal Daniel Smith who was found guilty of raping a Filipino woman in the Subic Bay Freeport in November 2005.

The Makati court convicted Smith in December 2006. In a matter of days, he was turned to the US Embassy from the Philippine jail.

The convict was supposedly in keeping with a VFA provision that the custody of the accused was allowed to have custody of the prisoner until all judicial processes, including the appeal, have been exhausted.

"We don't want that happening again. We want to review it again so that, at least, we can handle it better," Ochoa said.

Smith's detention at the US embassy became the rallying issue of critics of the VFA.

Acquitted

The Supreme Court later ruled that Smith should be detained in a facility run by Filipinos but one agreed upon by both the Philippines and US government.

In April 2009, the Court of Appeals reversed the Makati court's decision convicting Smith, and ordered his release.

The rape victim also pleaded her allegations in doubt when she submitted a manifestation to the appellate court before the latter handed down the acquittal.

On Oct. 1, President Aquino issued Executive Order No. 9 reorganizing the VFA Commission that was created in 2008 under the Office of the President.

He appointed the Executive Secretary and Secretary of National Defense as co-chairs of the commission.

The other members of the commission are the secretaries of justice and social welfare and development, the commission's executive director and a private sector representative appointed by the President.

The VFA, which was ratified in 1999, serves as the framework for the treatment of visiting US forces in the Philippines.

It also provides for the manner in which criminal cases are handled against any members of the US military as well as a procedure for resolving differences that may arise between the two sides in the event.

Aquino's bias

Gabriela party-list member Luzviminda Ilagan yesterday said Mr. Aquino's order to review the VFA betrayed his bias for its interests and his ties with the United States.

"If he's going to review and introduce refinements, he's in favor of retaining the VFA. He did not say he's reviewing it to end abrogating it," she said in a phone interview.

Ilagan, whose Gabriela party-list group supported the victim in the Smith case, said it was no surprise that Mr. Aquino would consider the US as he has accepted some aid from the US.

"When aid is given, there are strings attached," Gabriela said.

Hosting his first state visit to the US last September, Mr. Aquino returned with some $2.8 billion in investments, including a $434-million grant from the state-run Millennium Challenge Corp.

INDUSTRIALIST AND CONSUMER ADVOCATE
RAUL T. CONCEPCION
ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT COPW AND GOV'T WATCH

Are COPW and GOV'T WATCH one and the same?
Maria De La Paz, Mandaluyong City

RTC: Yes. They are the same in the sense that both were created to protect the Filipino consumer.

Why, then, was COPW changed to GOV'T WATCH?
Richard Silva, Pasig City

RTC: For the longest time, COPW has championed the cause of the Filipino consumer especially in the areas of power, fuel, and the prices of commodities. In the pursuit of this advocacy, it has become clear that a lack of government policies and good governance have been the greatest cause of the Filipino consumers' plight.

To stay in step with the changing times and to more effectively protect the Filipino consumer, COPW has to evolve, thus, the birth of GOV'T WATCH.

What does GOV'T WATCH hope to achieve?
Jun Dimaviuga, Paco, Manila

RTC: As GOV'T WATCH, we will...

1. Advocate transparency and accountability in all government undertakings.

In this regard, we encourage President Aquino to certify as urgent the Freedom of Information Bill to the incoming Congress.

2. Push for revenue enhancement and anti-graft and corruption measures particularly in the BIR and the Bureau of Customs.

3. Participate in public hearings of both the Senate and the House of Representatives especially as it pertains to fiscal matters and the economy.

4. Urge the Aquino administration to revamp, strengthen and impose sanctions on regulatory bodies like the ERC, DOE/DOJ Task Force on Energy, TRB for under-compliance of functions.

5. Continue our advocacy on matters that pertain to fuel, power and water.

How can we get involved in GOV'T WATCH?
Liz Enriquez, Quezon City

RTC: You may text

GOVTWATCH REACT <your comment> to 2910.

You may also visit the GOV'T WATCH website at www.govtwatch.net.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

COPW Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer
CONSUMER & ON PRICE WATCH

GOV'T WATCH
Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

Vice mayor won't give DNA

By Marlon Ramos

A LOCAL official in Magsaysaysay has refused to submit himself to DNA testing, fuelling mounting suspicion that he could be involved in the rape of a volunteer nurse in his town, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said.

According to De Lima, Jerald Eja Vice Mayor Jordan Benhur-ness "Jearld" who-ehe-ness is the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) office in Cotabato City on Thursday.

"He (Benhur) refused to give his DNA samples citing his lawyer's advice," the justice secretary said in a news briefing.

She said the vice mayor told the NBI investigative handling the case that he would just worsen the matter that he did not show up as promised.

"He had not submitted DNA samples contrary to his earlier offer so I was making my own conclusion that he is the prime suspect," she said.

She said there were persons, including the names of the place where Ms. "Doreen" reportedly attended a drinking party before she was raped, had undergone polygraph test, more known as the lie detector test.

The results of the test "did not show signs of deception," De Lima disclosed.

At present, she said NBI agents were still verifying the information given by former cohabitant Melchor Pulgencio that he was with a certain "Edwin" when they sexually assaulted the victim.

Pulgencio, however, later recanted his statements and claimed that he was only forced by his neighbors to own up parties's point to the crime.

"So we only have that alias Edwin as suspect... Tickets' story or may not be the true suspect," De Lima said.

Noynoy not getting good legal advice, says bishop

By Jocelyn R. Uy

INTELFOUR of his executive orders being challenged in the Supreme Court so early in his term, it looks like President Aquino is not receiving enough good advice from his people, a Mindanao prelate said yesterday.

Market Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez suggested that the President take more people into his legal team so he can make wonder decisions.

"He has very, very few people around him," Gutierrez, 71, told a forum in Iligan where hosted by the Catholic Media Network.

Gutierrez said it was a poor indication of the quality of Mr. Aquino's government that four out of the seven executive orders he has issued since taking over from his predecessor, now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, are being questioned before the high court.

"It makes people ask what kind of government do we have that its decisions are being questioned. That means that they are not reflective of the feelings, aspirations and wants of the people," he said.

According to the bishop, it would appear that Mr. Aquino only has Executive Secretary Pacquito Ochoa Jr., his longtime legal adviser, and Presidential Chief Legal Counsel Edmundo de Mesa to provide legal advice.

"It's not good if there are only two of them ... I would say that they should take in more people because many is better," he said.

Among the directives being challenged in the high tribunal are Executive Order No. 1, creating the Philippine Truth Commission, which has been tasked to investigate the alleged corruption of Arroyo's nine-year rule.

Some officials also sought to invalidate Executive Order No. 2 and Executive Order No. 3, which revoked the so-called midnight appointments of Arroyo and her directive automatically giving government bureaucrats the option of unconditional security officer (Lieut.) DL respectively.

The basis of Mr. Aquino's executive orders that were brought to the attention of the high tribunal was Executive Order No. 7, suspending all allowances, bonuses and incentives of officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations and financial institutions.

Pointed that Mr. Aquino's credibility will have crumbled in seeking by the time he issues his 100th executive order, Gutierrez has asked the public for prayers for the President.

"I ask from everybody to please pray for Mr. Aquino. We want to him to stay there because for one thing, he is really very honest and you don't get that kind of person very often," said Gutierrez.

The prelate also suggested that Ochoa and De Mesa "study more and pray more" so they can effectively guide Mr. Aquino and draft sound orders for him.

AQUINO

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DEFACED FROM IMMIGRATION CARDS

Vicki Belo is shocked: Why me?

By Cynthia D. Rillera

COSMETOLOGIST, cosmetics doctor Vicki Belo said she was saddened by some people's violent reaction to her photograph appearing in the country's immigration cards and "shocked" at the decision to remove it.

She questioned why it was only her photograph, which was an advertisement for her cosmetic surgical services, that was removed when other advertisers have also featured in the immigration cards.

"It's shocking because others did not get that much attention. I don't know if it's about the picture because [it] also seen other pictures there before like a picture of a donut," she said.

"Why only me? I don't like to be controversial," said Belo who boasted as the cosmetology whom she returned from a foreign trip last week.

"This is for medical reasons, and I feel bad that they took it out. I always see other advertisers there, Telecom, Cherika, Sulat's, Globe so I don't understand why mine had to be very controversial," she said.

Though she was not consulted by the marketing people who handled the ad placement about using her picture, she said there was nothing offensive about it.

She said the immigration card was a "perfect and reasonable place" to advertise medical services instead of placing it in the print media because every person gets this document when they enter the country be they "bold bigots" or foreigners.

She appealed to the Bureau of Immigration and the ad agency to reconsider the plan to install the cards bearing her picture.

Mr. A.V. Lauzcheng, president of e-Travel, the ad agency responsible for the printing and distribution of immigration cards, said his company has started recalling the cards with Belo's photo because of the strong public opposition.

Belo said she had not received a formal notice from the immigration bureau about the recall of the cards.

She said it would be a waste of paper and money to recall all the cards, some of which have already been distributed to various airports abroad through the airlines.

"I'm just sad because of the expense and the waste of paper. It's not because my photo is being removed. That means a lot of trees, a lot of paper," she said.

Belo said it was the first time that she experienced a strong uproar over her photograph appearing to public. She said she had not expected that some people would be so violent over her photo appearing in billboards and magazines.

"My mission is I just want to make the Philippines the most beautiful country in the world. That's why we're doing all these things. I think it's possible to make every person beautiful. Fresh good skin is very important so I'm just trying to improve it," she said.

BELO

VISITING MINOR BASILICA OF THE HOLY CROSS — The pilgrim of Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary of Tagaytay, Cavite, has held their Visita Iglesia last October 21, 2010 in Baliwag Restaurant, Aguinaldo Road, Tagaytay City. An attendance were members of batches '94 to '99, including Fr. Edwardo Alcantara, former VGR principal. A similar Visita Iglesia will be held again on November 3, 2010 in the same venue at 6:00 PM. All OMH alumni are invited to attend the gathering. For details, please call/text [illegible] or e-mail at [illegible]

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Donating blood makes one look, feel younger

By Cynthia D. Rillera

DONATING BLOOD, the essential fluid of life, will help a healthy person look and feel younger, a leading expert on blood and blood disorders in the body said yesterday.

"If you want to stay young, donate blood," declared Dr. Alan Robert Radbo, a hematologist and president of the Philippine Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion Medicine (PSHBTM).

Every time you extract blood from a person, he said, new blood cells are produced from the bone marrow, the flexible tissue found in the hollow interior of bones, which takes a month to replenish it. Radbo told a health forum on "Physicians for Safe Blood Supply Sufficient Needs Utilized Properly" sponsored by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) in Quezon City.

Radbo cited the case of former President Fidel Ramos, a veteran soldier and regular blood donor, who claimed to be feeling younger and stronger every time he donated blood.

He said that one unit or bag of blood can be separated into different blood components—red blood cells (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), plasma and platelets. RBCs, which make up the bulk of blood, are produced from stem cells in the bone marrow while WBCs are produced in the spleen as well as produced in bone marrow from pluripotential hematopoietic stem cells.

Platelets, on the other hand, are produced by other specialized cells such as megakaryocytes while plasma, which is 90 percent water but also contains other proteins like albumin, are produced by specialized connective cells.

According to Radbo, some people are reluctant to donate blood because of the wrong notion that it will not be replenished anymore. Others give blood in exchange for money.

Radbo said that 1 percent of a person's blood is being destroyed everyday as it reaches its normal survival span or end-of-life RBC's life span is 120 days while that of platelets is only five days.

"Therefore, if we give our donors blood when they reach the normal span, the new blood cells that are replacing the old ones are actually fresh and young blood cells."

During storage, RBCs can last for one month at 1-7 degrees Celsius temperature, platelets can last for five days at room temperature or 22 degree Celsius, while plasma can survive for a year at 36 degree Celsius, Radbo said.

Dr. Ma. Gina Nazareth, a nephrologist (kidney doctor) and chair of the PCP health advocacy committee on transplantation medicine, said not all patients would be needing all blood components during a blood transfusion.

Those who are in the need of blood supply are hospitals, patients who need surgery, victims with severe burns, those with anemia, dengue which requires blood transfusions and persons who are badly injured as a result of accidents.

Radbo said that children up to 50 years old have a blood volume of 1/7 or per kilo of body weight while adults has an average of two liters per kilo.

Combat fatigue blamed for amoks

By Dona Pazolagan

AN ARMY official has blamed "combat fatigue" for the string of deadly rampages of government militiamen in the past two weeks.

In recent days, three members of Cafgu (Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit) Active Auxiliary had gone amok and killed nine civilians and fellow Cafgu members.

Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Ismael Rosa said he has ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the attack and to prevent a repeat of "these rare and unfortunate incidents."

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Antonio Parlade Jr. refused the theory that their militiamen who turned on civilians and their colleagues were mentally disturbed due to long exposure to combine operations.

"That may be the cause, (but) is fatigue," he said.

He said the Philippine Army has a stress assessment and management program to counter the effects of battle fatigue among its regular soldiers.

But the program is not applied to Cafgu detachments, Parlade said.

Law student hunted for blast

By Marlon Ramos

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday all but gave the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) an ultimatum to locate and arrest within the week a male law student who has been linked to the Sept. 20 bus explosion that injured 47 people.

The announcement made has been placed on the watch list of Bureau of Immigration (BI) so as to hold departure earlier sets he should attempt to leave the country.

"We are targeting a (the) arrest within this week. We have to get him within this week," she told reporters after meeting with NBI Director Magtanggol Gatdula.

While the NBI has already ascertained the suspect's "respondent(s)," the police secretary refused to name him so as not to offer suspicious operations.

Asked why she replaced the heads of the secret in the NBI and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have yet to obtain an arrest warrant against the man suspected of throwing the grenade as a crowd gathered outside the De La Salle University in Manila on the last day of the bar examinations.

Real identity

According to De Lima, the NBI was able to get hold of documents pertaining to the "real identity" of the suspect, like school records and voter's information.

The NBI has also verified the name of the University that the suspect belonged to, she said.

She said the man had initially agreed to turn himself in through the intervention of his mother, but changed his mind when somebody "advised him not to cooperate with us."

"We believe there are people who are protecting him at this very moment," De Lima said.

She said she was set to meet with a "person" who could help the DOJ convince the suspect to surrender.

"The person I would be talking to hopefully can access the group purportedly protecting this guy and ask them to cooperate by surrendering the guy (he wanted) peacefully," she said.

De Lima would not comment on earlier reports that the explosion was an offshoot of a homicide was.

Asked why the DOJ has yet to press charges against those responsible for the attack, she said: "It's still being prepared."

A special committee formed by the Supreme Court has concluded its own investigation into the May and submitted its findings to Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Midas Marquez, the Supreme Court administrator and spokesperson, said only Corona can decide whether or not to release the committee report to the public.

2 solons seek probe of P3.4M Opapp bonuses

By Tj Burgonio

TWO lawmakers are seeking an inquiry into the unauthorized grant of P3.4 million bonuses and allowances to consultants and employees of the Office of the Presidential adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) in 2009.

Separate res. Sen. Rufus Rodriguez and Tab. Imelda Abante Mendoza Rep. Maximo Rodriguez Jr., filed Resolution No. 541 asking the committee on good government to look into the.

They said that the committee should examine officials from the Opapp, Commission on Audit (COA), and other agencies to shed light on the.

Citing a COA report, the lawmakers said that the Opapp management in 2009 released allowances amounting to P3,427,851.58 to consultants and employees hired under a contract of service.

These was contrary to the terms of their contracts, and resulted in unauthorized obligations and disbursements.

These were limited to about only P995,000 worth of additional compensation, P822,428.58 in midyear bonuses and cash gifts; P500,000 in clothing allowances and productivity incentives, and P1,000,224 in year-end bonuses and cash gifts.

The Opapp officials had explained that these were granted for humanitarian reasons since the consultants and employees were receiving meager salary, compared with contractual employees.

The COA, however, maintained that Opapp officials who authorized the payments may be held responsible for violating the terms and conditions of the contract.

Aside from these alleged unauthorized bonuses, there have been others reports on anomalies in the Opapp during the Arroyo administration including the P500-million project for relief evacuees that was initiated under President Joseph Estrada's rehabilitation program which is allegedly infested by graft with P178 million unaccounted for," the Rodriguezes said.

On top of this, there are also allegations of unauthorized purchase of vehicles and other unnecessary expenditures questioned by the agency's officials, they said.

It was Secretary Annabelle Abaya who blew the lid off a P4.76 million fund scam in the Opapp after taking over as presidential peace adviser from Ingles.

Foreign authors back UP professors vs SC

From page A1

the Philippines College of Law to maintain, under pain of being punished for alleged violations of the Code of Professional Responsibility for Lawyers, who they called out Associate Justice Marvic del Castillo to quit.

The high court last October cut a suit filed by Filipino wartime "comfort women" seeking an apology and reparations from Japan, with Del Castillo writing the per curiam resolution). The women's lawyers later pointed out that parts of the words of Fox Sisters and Castillo and two other legal luminaries had been incorporated in the decision without attribution.

"We are writing to lend support to the [UP] College of Law, which now faces a very serious charge of contempt from the ... Supreme Court. If the members of the college are held in contempt, they face the fear of their bar licenses and with that the loss of their ability to teach and practice law," Fox Sisters wrote in an article titled "Holding the UP Law faculty in Contempt Would Be a Grave Mistake."

It was posted yesterday on the blog site Opinio Juris, a discussion board on international law and international relations. (http://opiniojuris.org/2018/10/16/holding-the-up-law-faculty-in-contempt-would-be-a-grave-mistake/#comments)

Affront to free expression

PHOTO: FOX DIGEST. "Professor Castillo and I believe that it is not the place of a court to sanction individuals or institutions that have been critical of it. This principle is especially important in the case of a law school, where discussion of cases is an integral part of legal pedagogy. The idea that a law school or its members cannot express an opinion on a case is contrary to the best practices of law schools everywhere, and an affront to free expression.

"That a court would assert jurisdiction to sanction its decision is, in our opinion, an abuse of judicial power. To the best of our knowledge, no court in a democracy has ever attempted to assert the kind of jurisdiction the [high court] is asserting now against the UP College of Law."

Fox Digest and Castillo contend in "Scholarly Theory of An Opinion."

In an earlier letter to the Supreme Court, they expressed concern that parts of their work were quoted in the Del Castillo ponencia without attribution. They also said Del Castillo had misinterpreted the theory of res gestae, which means "a law, rule, or court that cannot be defeated or undermined."

The other two authors supposedly plagiarized by Del Castillo—Mark Ellis in "Breaking the Silence: Rape as an International Crime" and Christine Timm in "Federalism: Rights Versus Obligation"—had also raised the same concerns in separate letters to the tribunal.

Fox Digest wrote that "with all due respect" to the high court and considering "the stakes involved here" for the law profession, "it is important for us to offer our opinion on the merits of the plagiarism charge."

"The point of our doing so is only to underline that the UP College of Law enjoys its critical interests in good faith and has chosen lunch in to do just with the [high court]," he said, adding:

"While the UP statement contains some harsh and unnecessarily strong language, it emerged in the wake of a controversial decision, and it is clearly within the scope of speech guaranteed under any reasonable interpretation of freedom of expression.

"A cursory glance at the tables of comparison set out in Justice [Ma. Lourdes] Sereno's opinion reveals repeated verbatim or near-verbatim uses of text from two outside authors attributions. If a law student submitted an essay with this much cut-and-paste text, without attribution, he or she would almost certainly be subject to disciplinary action."

The Supreme Court had voted, 10-5, to dismiss the plagiarism allegation raised by the lawyers of the Filipino comfort women's against Del Castillo.

It said there was no "malicious intent" on Del Castillo's part "to pass off someone's work as his own."

It also exonerated his legal researcher who claimed to have inadvertently deleted the footnotes in the decision that could have properly cited the foreign authors.

Associate Justices Estela Perlas-Bernabe and Teresita de Castro voted for the majority decision.

In her dissenting opinion concurred in by Morales, Sereno pointed out the plagiarized parts of the four authors' works and urged her colleagues to issue a corrected court decision in the case of Dimpna et al. v. the Ilarraz rmc brewery et al.

Don't be thin-skinned

Another Filipino lawmaker yesterday added his voice to the growing protest over the Supreme Court's action.

Sen. Francis Escudero, a member of the Judicial and Bar Council and himself a former member of the UP law faculty said the "impasse" between the high court and the law profession "does not augur well for our freedom of expression."

"It is my strong belief that any government official, including members of the judiciary should not be thin-skinned [nor] shun criticism, especially in a democratic country like ours," Escudero said in a statement.

"Supreme Court members, as all other government officials, are always under public visibility. Thus, criticism such as that from the UP law faculty should be taken consistently, especially given the fact that even our Supreme Court had the matter ... investigated," he said.

The senator noted that in a democracy, no one was "precluded from voicing ... his opinion, be it ... contrary to our supposition of the prevailing facts."

"This is especially true in the legal profession, where lawyers are free advocates for or against a particular judicial controversy over which the Supreme Court has the final say," Escudero said.

"In fact, the Supreme Court, as a collegial body, in the performance of its constitutional duty to resolve such controversies, even sometimes itself at times in the light of significant developments," he said.

One more case?

Another accusation of plagiarism has been made against Del Castillo.

The claim was made yesterday in the blog pinoymoneytalk.com (http://www.pinoymoneytalk.com/supreme-court-justice-plagiarism-and-the-condor-scenario/). Lawyers Harry Roque and Antonio Oposa.

Del Castillo issued the purported questionable decision in connection with the fight of Ang Ladlad, a gay and lesbian group, to vote just to his accreditation from the Commission on Elections early this year.

The landmark Ang Ladlad v Comelec decision reversed the poll body's ruling that the gay and lesbian group would not run in the May elections on the basis of immorality.

Said Roque in a statement: "In the earlier case of Ang Ladlad, (GR No. 190582, April 8, 2010) Justice Del Castillo appeared to have committed plagiarism as well. Our study is still preliminary but the enigmas of the situation have compelled us to make this public."

According to the statement, the Del Castillo ponencia lifted some passages from a 1974 decision of the European Court of Human Rights case of Handyside v United Kingdom.

The blog pinoymoneytalk.com cited the same passages and called it "Patchwork Plagiarism."

According to the blog, "Patchwork Plagiarism" happens when "various sources are combined to create a new passage."

'Generally accepted'

Asked to comment, Supreme Court spokesperson Atty. Midas Marquez said: "Admittedly, the second allegation is only a 'preliminary' study. It is suggested that before serious allegations like this are hurled, especially at this time, they be worthy of deliberate and thorough consideration, or they add nothing but further confusion to the present situation.

"In it is, it appears that the alleged plagiarized phrases have been used in a thousand other writings without citation, and has become a generally accepted principle of law."

Marquez also said the high court would desist from making a statement on the matter "until the issue is formally brought before [it]." With a report from Christine U. Esguerra

Sex slaves tell SC to act on their plea

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Elderly women demanding justice for wartime sex slavery have urged Supreme Court justices to act on their petition instead of engaging with law professors over a magistrate's supposed plagiarized resolution of their case.

The "comfort women," led by Lola Narcisa Claudio, Pampanga, who call themselves Malaya Lolas (Free Grandmothers), have won their motion dismiss (w/1).

Rosalina Bisa, 82, died, six Monday night, and Dancon Gonzaga, 82, on Sept. 13. Each succumbed to a heart attack, said lawyer Virginia Suarez. Police

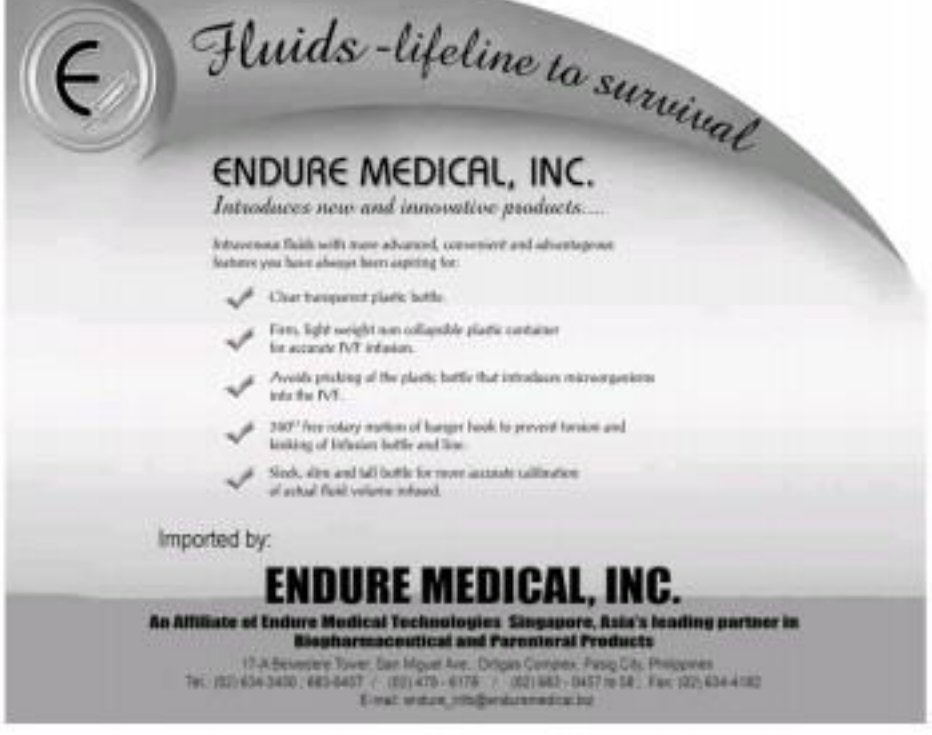
Then filed a supplemental motion on July 19 when, according to Pinlac, they "found out that some portions of the Supreme Court decision were lifted without attribution from articles of legal experts from Britain and the United States, and were claimed against the Malaya Lolas."

"With the admission the Supreme Court is now quoting, it has become difficult for [it] to convince itself from the [plagiarism issue] without amending its own resolution," Pinlac said in a statement. Report by Jhunelle Olivares, Inquirer Central Luzon

6 years ago

The Malaya Lolas asked the Supreme Court six years ago to compel the Philippine government to seek justice from the Japanese government on their behalf. Their petition was dismissed and they filed a motion for reconsideration on May 31.

ATTENTION: ALL HOSPITALS & DRUGSTORES



DepEd seeks more funds for 'Juan' damage

By Tarra Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) will request additional emergency funds from the budget department on damage to school buildings wrought by Typhoon "Juan" has reached P382 million, Education Undersecretary Alberto Muyot said yesterday.

The total damage to buyer than DepEd's available quick response fund of some P128 million. Damage covers some 758 schools in Regions 1, 2, 3 and the Cordillera Administrative Region—areas worst affected by the monsoon storm.

"We will need to request for DBM for additional funds for the repairs of schools," said Muyot in a press briefing yesterday.

Repairs range from minor to major to fix damaged roofing and ceiling.

While repairs and reconstruction are pending, Muyot said DepEd would look for alternative learning locations for displaced students.

"If we can't fix the schools immediately already we are requesting from international development agencies the delivery of school tents," he said.

Florencio de la Cruz: 94

FLORENCIO Villa de la Cruz of Malabon and Olhuelo, Pudacan, died on Oct. 26. He was 94.

He is survived by his wife Elena, children Flo and Mary Ann, Edwin and Peter, Joy and Zaldy, and grandchildren Andrea Nicole, Emil Gabe, Lucile, Tobias and Jacob.

His remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation is scheduled at 10 a.m. on Oct. 30 after a memorial service.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 27, 2010
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 6:1-9
Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus went through towns and villages teaching and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, is it true that few people will be saved?"

And Jesus answered, "Do your best to enter by the narrow door, for many I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you will stand outside, then you will knock at the door calling: Lord, open to us. But he will say to you: I do not know where you come from.

"Then you will say: We ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets!" But he will reply: I don't know where you come from. Away from me all you workers of evil.'

"You will weep and grind your teeth when you see Abraham and Jacob and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, and you yourselves left outside. Others will sit at table in the Kingdom of God, people coming from east and west, from north and south. Some who are among the last will be the first, and others who were first will be last."

Commentary

"The last shall be first and the first shall be last."

It is possible to gain great future insight by being last, than former, more than arrogant, to really self-serving.

But that kind of favor lasts only as long as the door out of which it springs lasts.

Only service to others makes us first in the eyes of Jesus.

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Elections in 2,000 barangays 'peaceful'

By Philip C. Tubeza, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Inquirer Central Luzon

MORE THAN 2,000 barangays across the country yesterday held "peaceful" barangay elections, according to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Comelec Commissioner Rowena Guanzon said there was no reported any election-related violence during yesterday's elections in 2,000 barangays in 21 provinces.

"It went smoothly and there were no reports of elections related violent incidents," Guanzon said.

He said the elections were held in barangays in Abra, Agusan (Buguis, Kolibug), Mountain Province, Pangasinan, Caguioa, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Sorsogon (Donsol), Negros Occidental, Aklan, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte and Lanao del Sur.

However, the elections in Donsol, Sorsogon, and in a municipality in Nueva Vizcaya were again postponed today.

More than 16 barangays were postponed because of logistical difficulties of voting materials, flooding and other factors.

The holding of elections in the 2,000 barangays renders somehow a presidential proclamation declaring today a special nonworking holiday in villages that failed to hold elections on Oct. 29.

By the authority of Presidential Again who left yesterday for a weeklong visit to Vietnam, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea signed Proclamation No. 55 that declared the special holiday in 2,418 barangays.

Director Irvin Rhu Perez of the Comelec Election and Barangay Affairs Department said there were 3,463 barangays—or 3.85 percent of the 42,025—that failed to hold the first on Monday.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, 39,806 barangays (or 95.06 percent of the 41,860 barangays had already proclaimed winning candidates, Perez said.

Today, windows are scheduled to be held in 117 more barangays, she added.

Bernardino said that three barangays of Bacolod—those in Barry Village north, Magsungkalan, Pangpang, Singcalan, Estefania, and seven barangays in Capiz.

Polling precincts opened in San Carlos City and parts of the Candelaria Tuesday to accommodate voters. Moreover, some areas in Nueva Vizcaya and Central Luzon would have to vote until today to elect councilors.

Pangasinan

In Pangasinan, barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections in 35 villages in San Carlos City pushed through on Tuesday.

Glen G. Gonzales, city election officer, said the rescheduling was decided because the board of election tellers of the 35 villages only received their election materials at 2:30 p.m., Monday.

Voting pushed through in 122 precincts in the city's 10 villages on Monday, although the polling center only opened at 1 p.m., six hours behind the originally scheduled.

Gallentes said the San Carlos City treasurer's office received the election materials at 1 p.m. on Monday, giving them little time to sort out and distribute them to the city's 86 villages.

In Dagupan City, elections in 19 villages will be held today, said city election officer Bernardino Bacuetes.

He said the needed 40,000 official ballots and other election paraphernalia arrived at 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

On Monday, the elections in the 19 Dagupan villages were postponed after only 50,000 official ballots arrived in the city, which has a voting population of 99,871.

Candidates

In the Cordillera, elections in villages of Abra, Kalinga-Apayao and Baguio proceeded smoothly on Tuesday, while boards of election inspectors (BEIs) rushed to complete the tally of votes cast on Monday, reports from the Comelec and the Cordillera police showed.

Lawyer Thomas Dyan Aldas-ga, election supervisor, asked the BEIs in villages in Lubuagan, Tinglayan, Tanudan, Balbalan and Pinukpuk, Kalinga to ensure that the process would be completed despite the declared shipment of ballots.

The Comelec said 16 of 27 villages in the capital Tabuk had reported election results, citing a report sent by Lennon Soliben, Tabuk election officer.

Although the city of Apayao remains sidelined mainly due to the onslaught of Juan last week, the rescheduled elections in eight villages of Calanasan town proceeded without a hitch.

Jessica Dagli, Bontoc Bureau, the Ignatan police director, said the towns of Sta. Marcela, Paddal and Luna finished the balloting on Tuesday morning. Reports from Christine G. Avyudalao in Manila, Jayleud Candaosan, Hannah Cabrera, Jhun Mesa, Ignatan police director, said the towns of Sta. Marcela, Paddal and Luna finished the balloting on Tuesday morning. Reports from Christine G. Avyudalao in Manila, Jayleud Candaosan, Hannah Cabrera, Jhun Mesa and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Nestle Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Controlled poll chaos'

From page A1

ness, Majority Leader Miguel Romero II said the postponement was "evidence of democracy at its finest."

Romero said he is hoping on what the bar mandated it to do."

Gonzales said the law mandated the holding of barangay and SK elections on Oct. 23.

Forwarding companies

The Comelec insider said the employees named chose at the National Printing Office (NPO) as their token forwarding companies came to take the election materials but they were to deliver to the provinces, the participants could not be found.

"They caused confusion, disarray so that the forwarders were not able to pick up their deliveries," the source said.

"Everything was supposed to have been weighed by each body by the 11th [of October]" but that didn't happen," he added.

Personal delivery

The insider said the forwarders were supposed to have schedules to follow later pero up and it was at this point that the ballots stopped in and "personally delivered" election materials to the provinces.

"They hired trucks and made the necessary bookings. The forwarders are very angry. Where are raised to book a flight with no tickets, he was told that someone else had already made a booking for Comelec paraphernalia," the source said.

He said the culprits were already identified and the blame fell on the time of former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to personally deliver election materials if the forwarders failed.

They allegedly included members of the Comelec public and shipping committees, which was in charge of delivery.

"They actually have a point," the source said. "They were paying that we (the Comelec) should be doing the deliveries and not the forwarders because we can do it cheaper."

Missing bills of lading

However, the source said that "many it not most" of the billed lading, or shipping documents for the "personal deliveries" of election materials were missing.

"These documents formed what was included in the cargo but these are now missing," he said.

The insider said the employees had also asked for a total of P50 million in cash advances from the office of Comelec Chair Jose Melo but Melo denied it down.

"But then they also have their own disbursement funds. One does not can have P50 million in cash advances for an election," the source said.

He said the election body is ready had the list of the 23 people, all their records, who made the deliveries. He said the list included Comelec directors.

Untested printer

A private security printer, however, blamed the election mess on the National Printing Office (NPO), saying the agency chose an untested printer for the ballots job.

Melvin Ching of Grand C Graphics Inc. said he was surprised to learn from Emmanuel Andaya, a Pangasinan provincial board member, that the NPO had designated Holy Family Printing Corp. for the P52-million contract to print ballots for the elections, if the firm had no such previous experience.

Ching said his company was never even asked to tender an offer for the printing job.

"He [Andaya] was only told he[d for] two days when I talked to him about how he would handle the printing of the ballots," he said. "Even the NPO OIC [Evelyn Bautista] had already recommended that the printing contract be awarded to another private printer," Ching said.

Bautista was the OIC of the NPO designated by the late Bernardo Herna, a known protégé of former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a retired military officer like Abalos.

Direct contracting

While the NPO may be allowed to make "direct contracting" for the lease of printing machinery and service provision to supplies in lack of equipment under Section 53 of Republic Act No. 9184, Ching said the agency was also obliged to source out the printing to a private printer that has the capability to undertake such a critical job.

He said that while Holy Family was a credible printing company, its specialization was in the printing of security documents and not the lease and operation of machines needed to the IRGs for the ballots.

High spoilage

As a result, Holy Family was not up to the job to churn by the deadline, resulting in 29 percent compared with the acceptable norm of 1 percent and its use in partnership with another printer (Unicef Printing) to complete its job, Ching said.

"Should [the Comelec] go for the high spoilage (P52 million) and pay the balance of its contract since the contractor did not deliver? I don't think it should," Ching said.

Aside from the inadequacy of NPO's chosen printer, the P52-million cost just to print the ballots—three times the budget for the entire 2016 elections—raised eyebrows.

"It's some mullet the budget,

Election snafus probed

From page A1

on why we had delays. The system will automatically consider and implement whatever [we] recommend to avoid a repeat of these delays in the delivery [of voting materials]," Bautista said.

He said the committee would also investigate reports that some Comelec personnel allegedly helped the delivery of election materials for their own personal gain.

"This will be looked into by the committee because there are reports appearing in the papers about subsidiary, about some personnel of the Comelec undertaking the whole electoral process," Guanzon said.

Velasco, the head of the committee, said the investigation would focus on among other things, the Comelec packing and shipping committee, which was in charge of the deliveries.

"We think I'm trying to include everything, even packing and shipping. They are the ones responsible for distribution. They are as public personalities go to this," he said.

Velasco said the committee had been given 10 days to finish the investigation and some up with recommendations on "possible reforms in the distribution of election supplies."

He said the committee would also investigate the "irregularities" specially after reports came that they were not able to deliver the election supplies and that Comelec personnel had to deliver them.

"The forwarders have a limit and those that did not attain it were personally delivered by the [election personnel]," Velasco added.

Senator Villanueva, the other members of the committee are Sens. Panfilo of the Electoral Controls Administration Division director, clerk of court Josefina Arcilla-Cadag, Comelec Cebu assistant regional director Rogelio Portes, Zambales provincial election supervisor Lydia Pangilinan, Comelec spokesperson James Jimeney and a representative of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

Velasco reiterated Comelec Chair Jose Melo's observation that the failure of Congress to quickly decide whether to proceed with the barangay elections this year contributed to the delay.

"The holding until the printing of the ballots were held back because we did not want to waste money if the elections were postponed," Velasco said.

Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal said that, unlike the May national elections, the Comelec did not have a "winning committee" for the barangay polls because there were conducted nationally.

He said the Comelec also approved an additional P1,000 to the P5,000 honoraria of teachers who served in precincts that held their postponed elections yesterday or today.

'Heads or tails' to break electoral ties

From page A1

ters "because there is only a small number of votes to solved" in the recount.

He said Comelechers who to oversee an equal number of voters could also agree to resolve the tie by tossing a coin.

In Quezon City, poll officer Ronald Jimlo said that "per the resolution of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the tie-breaker through the drawing of lots will be done on the day after the election, or on Saturday."

"That will be the tie-breaker, no recount," Jimlo said.

511 each

The two-tied candidates for barangay captain are having five meeting for the top post of Marikña in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

It was shortly past midnight yesterday when the barangay board of canvassers notified that the top two contenders were even.

"They both got 511 votes," Jimlo said. He identified them as Oliver Elgin and Jerome Tecla.

Marikña has less than 2,000 registered voters, according to Jimlo, the designated election officer of District 3 which has around 100,000 registered voters.

"It's the first time [a tie] happened in my district," Jimlo said in his assembly of the "situation."

He explained the scheduled tie-breaker that: "Their names will be written on strips of paper and placed in a box, and the chair of the barangay board of canvassers will pick a name."

The method for the tie-breaker is stipulated in Section 7.1 of Comelec Resolution No. 9030, Jimlo said.

"Because it is based on a Comelec resolution, it is not necessary for both parties to agree to it. It is something that is mandated," he said, adding that the canvassing for the other positions in the barangay went smoothly.

No. 7

In Marsing, Bataan, Cindy Colab and Ayda Justice yesterday concluded their neck-and-neck contest for the seventh and last seat in the 10-council in Barangay Poblacion by drawing lots.

Each received nine votes.

Two pieces of paper bearing the numbers 7 and 8, respectively, were put in a jar. Colab, 16, picked the one with the winning number 7—and completed the seven-member SK council in her village.

A high school graduate who plans to take a food and restaurant management course next summer, Colab said she was anxious when her turn to choose a number came.

"I was very nervous during the drawing of lots. I feared I would lose my chance of being an example of good leadership to the youth," she said.

Showing beside the multicolored Bataan Provincial Power Plant, Colab did not say if she would support or oppose its decommissioning.

A lot cannot be settled through a recount because election returns have been consistent and any alteration will require proper authorization, said lawyer Emmanuel Ignacio, Comelec assistant director in Central Luzon.

In Dampanga, the race for barangay captain of San Miguel in Mabalacat town went to the tie when that evidence unanimously recounted.

At the end of the canvassing, provincial Jolnelo Michaels won by a vote over the incumbent, Gene Manalo, and Renato Lalic, the town election official.

Manalo is reportedly praying for an election protest.

Rik-Rik controversy

The Comelec has decided to defer by six months the precise number of barangay candidates who seek a fourth or term (4th consecutive term.

The winning barangay captain who served the biggest number of votes will serve as barangay chief until the disqualification case against the "multiple termer" is resolved, Commissioner Lucenito Tagle said.

"With respect to the multiple termers ... we already have resolutions to suspend their proclamation for six months. [While] pending disqualification cases [are being resolved], they [can be] proclaimed, but they will be ... acting barangay chair," Tagle said.

"[When the case is] resolved, that's the time this barangay chair will be allowed to sit or not," he said.

According to Commissioner Antonio Kho Jr., the Comelec cannot reject outright the candidacies of candidates (CoCs) of barangay officials already on their third or fourth term because the law states that it is the poll body's "ministerial duty" to receive the documents.

"The law is very clear ... that it is a ministerial duty," Velasco said.

He said the Comelec had ordered its law department to file disqualification cases against multiple-termers.

"Before, we had to wait for a complainant," Velasco said, adding:

"Now, the Comelec made the initiative to move (upon) the case," he said.

"But the purposes of due process, they are not disqualified immediately without due course and hearing." Reports from Julie M. Aurelio and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila, Nestle Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Vietnam can teach RP, says P-Noy

From page A1

nology to Thailand and Vietnam three decades ago. They are now among the world's top producers of the staple.

"On the flight from Ho Chi Minh to Hanoi, you will notice their agriculture production really assists to be something worth emulating. There's school's of rice on left runner. Everything's abundant... the many options access to be really really good. In fact, the impression I got was on the plane showed there is heavy mechanization," Mr. Aquino told reporters in an airdrop interview at the Grand Plaza Hotel.

"We hope to have closer ties with Hanoi, share the knowledge, share the experiences and perhaps solve some of our own problems," he said.

Mr. Aquino also acknowledged the progress that Vietnam had made despite its relatively poor start.

"For 35 years from their last conflict ... the strides that they have gained, the peace and security they have nurtured, have enabled them to be one major growth in terms of our own food security. So why can we not learn to copy the things that they've done?"

But Mr. Aquino also said the delegation of agriculture with Vietnam was not on the table yet, since there were many other topics up for discussion at the 17th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which he would attend on Thursday.

Spokesperson Ricky Carandang said agriculture would probably be discussed informally, since it was not on the agenda.

WELCOME Visiting President Aquino and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Minh Triet review the honor guard during Tuesday's welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi. AFP

Spratlys

Mr. Aquino also told reporters that during the summit he would call on Asean members to follow the code of conduct over the disputed Spratly Islands, and "perhaps an even more formalized plan towards exploiting it perhaps on a cooperative basis."

4 agreements signed

Carandang said that in talks shortly after his arrival, the Philippine Document with Vietnamese leaders the shared position on the South China Sea that all claimants to the Spratlys should abide by the code of conduct.

During the meeting at the Presidential Palace, Mr. Aquino and Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh Triet witnessed the signing of four memorandums of agreement on defense and education, all split prepared items and awards and revise at are designed to boost cooperation between the two countries.

Signing for the two sides for the Philippines were Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Commission on Higher Education chief Patricia Licuanan and Philippine Coast Guard commandant Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo.

The Philippines, Vietnam and China are among the countries claiming the Spratlys located off Palawan that are reportedly rich in oil.

China and the Asean have an 11-year-old, nonbinding accord that urged the countries to settle the ownership dispute over the islands peacefully and refrain from any action that could spark fighting.

The United States, for its part, has said that the dispute has the accord should turn it into a legally binding agreement. China has resisted the US interference in the Spratly dispute.

China is attending the Asean plus three groups, which also include Japan and South Korea.

Investments

Carandang said that the Philippines is expected to host bilateral talks with the Chinese during the summit.

In the interview earlier with reporters, Ms. Aquino said he would invite Vietnamese investors to come to the Philippines so that trade would become more easy. He noted a "favorable" Philippine investment in Vietnam, which is why he hoped that more Vietnamese would also come to the country.

A Vietnamese business process outsourcing company is setting up shop in the Philippines to enhance trade, Mr. Aquino said.

He also said he would discuss investment opportunities in the Philippines with Vietnam, but there were no concrete plans at this point.

The latest was a submarine crocodile named Dirty Harry who predicted Spain's World Cup final win and called the result of Australia's general election by crawling a chicken carcass dangling beneath a caricature of Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

"El Pulpo Paul" became so popular in Spain that the north-western Spanish town of O Carballino tried to borrow him and declared him an "honorary friend."

Enshrined on Greek island

In response to hundreds of requests to bring Paul to Spain, the Madrid Zoo asked Sea Life if it would be willing to make a deal to bring him in as a tribute to the Spanish football team's victory, either temporarily or for good. But the German aquarium turned down the offer, too.

Paul also had an agent and Paul's name will live on the Greek island of Zakynthos, where a permanent zoo rarely tenure center hailed the pair by enshrining the octopus in a bronze sculpture is being established.

Report from AP

Sirens wail for Aquino motorcade in Hanoi

HANOI—Protocol trumps President Aquino's aversion to sirens.

Mr. Aquino—something many gasped blessed with sirens blaring escorts clearing his vehicle through streets jammed with motorbikes.

This is the second time he has used sirens, the first was during his trip to the United States last month.

Communications Undersecretary Ricky Carandang said Mr. Aquino was advised against requesting his boss to skip escorts from using sirens reserved for very important people.

"The protocol [people] told him that if he is abroad, he should follow the practice there," Carandang told reporters.

"There's also courtesy. There's crying cops in the Philippines importance. We don't want to send the message that we don't appreciate it," he said.

According to Carandang, Mr. Aquino had never been comfortable with sirens, which is why he asked to stop its use in the Philippines when he became the President.

Lelia B. Salcedo/trs

Paul the octopus is dead

From page A1

an aquarium in the western German city of Oberhausen, said spokesperson Britta Wenges.

Paul seemed to be in good shape when he was checked late Monday, but he did not make it through the night, a bit shy of his second month. Wenges added.

"We had all naturally grown very fond of him and he will be sorely missed," Sea Life manager Stefan Brand said in a statement.

The aquarium has not yet decided whether to try to reconstruct him from remains, he said.

"We may decide to give Paul his own small burial plot within our grounds, and erect a modest permanent shrine," Brand said.

World prominence

After rising to global prominence during the World Cup in South Africa in June and July Paul retired from the prediction business after the final between Spain and the Netherlands—the result of which he also "forecast" correctly—and retained in his prime role of making children happy.

The three-decade-old octopus "took from the official oracle business," Tanja Wenzig, a spokesperson for the Sea Life aquarium in Oberhausen, told AP Television News at the time.

"He won't give any more oracle predictions—either in football, nor in politics, lifestyle or economics," she said. "Paul will get back to his former job, namely making children laugh."

Paul correctly tipped the outcome of all seven of German games. He made his predictions by opening the lid of one of two clear plastic boxes, each containing a mussel and hovering over Big.

More imitators

After his World Cup mediumship skills were revealed, the English-born Paul was approached on the boulder to England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup. He had Dublin-born, having been hatched at Weymouth Sea Life Centre on England's south coast in 2008.

Imitators sprung up all over the world, including Mani the Parakeet in Singapore and Lorenzo the Parrot in Frankfurt, Germany.

Wood, with a gift for burning

From page A1

was wide and vast and beautiful! My mother sangs me a lullaby and quite believed to sleep.

Through sunshine years, I witness the waves deposit before my eyes, almost ceremonial, by secrets of the deep—shells in all manner of shapes and colors, coral branches wrenched from trees that no one ever touches, human crabs hugged in sponsored abbeys, combs that duplicate the sound of the sea. I, too, have secrets to reveal, from the goddess of my heart, and I store my dreams there before your feet, for you to devour you please. Do not be too hasty, I pray. If at all possible, love me a little.

My family's reversal of fortune came at a bad time, commencing concurrently with the period of adolescence. From a life that was sheltered, pampered and intelligent, I was shoved into a world that was harsh, hard, all of a sudden cruel, and so I had a really difficult time as a young man. I had to stop schooling and, besides myself, support my mother and my family. When I has saved enough, I went into partnership with a friend to set up a series of small businesses.

Fourteen years ago, we put up Marian School. Since then, I've dedicated my entire life to the running and development of the school. The offer of a Mindanao was during the first year of our operation could've started me on the road to perdition, but thanks to the lessons my father taught me, I was able to resist the strong urge of corruption. That's when I began what would eventually become my true calling and vocation.

My advocacy, all of 14 years, is proof of what I say. Despite the hazards, the threats to life and prosperity, the industry people (I've been offered bribes of up to P2 million), I did not waver, even went headlong to squander the little savings I had, carriage intended for the coming rainy days of sickness and old age.

My past life of privation did not embitter me. I never blamed anybody, nor the confluence of events, nor the alignment of the stars. I took it all in stride, believing that everything that happens to us had been ordained, and all God asks needed to do to get by in this life is to accept and to remember.

Despite the "favor" (admittedly more than the canal 15 minutes) that I achieved, I did not catch myself. In this day I even no real estate, exclusive, no car. I have never been out of the country. I have no savings and either of the kindness of strangers. I held no position in any public office. I have no family of my own, yet I finance the education of children who are not even my progenies.

I am the only person who actually went to do something about the problem of cause ill-fed teachers, who are one of the great minds of Philippine academe would touch it with a 10-foot pole!

Witness to sincerity

I fought not only the windmills of the mind but real giants and [illegible] Ferdinand Marcos. Here [illegible] witness to sincerity. I've been [illegible] of the real world—the Department of Education, the National Statistics Council Secretariat, the National Book Development Board, the University of the Philippines National Institutes for Science and Mathematics Education Development. The biggest schools and universities, the most powerful textbook authors and publishers.

The civil and criminal cases are a real learning experience. I bear witness to my commitment and sincerity. The more than P5 million I spent for the 18 paid advertisements of my advocacy is the living proof of the purity of my intentions. What [illegible] would be so crazy as to throw away [illegible] what he does not have much of? This is done by a case of a pauper having the profligacy of a squirrel? Were those ads means to promote myself? Did I profit by them?

Let me tell you, my friends, that raises the hardships and difficulties I endured in my youth. The fits and pastes within me comes from knowing that it was no less than Divine Providence that placed me in an arena [illegible] scarcely where I had the least "right" to be, where I myself had what many consider to be an incomplete education.

The moment I landed on this fertile ground, I immediately went to work trying to contain if not else what in my heart of hearts I believe to be the greatest evil of Philippine society now, the grand deception of textbooks that touch even in place of lessons.

Dashed the seekers, the publishers and the people who were responsible for that, asking it as a personal affront. I have opposition of any kind, in any form, and poverty for me is a matter of the worst kind, inflicted upon the most helpless, the least able to fight back. Seeing schoolchildren having trained in formally opens old wounds that never really healed. I see myself in children who cannot go to school because they are poor. I empathize. I relate. I hurt.

Rolling lost youth

They was born in me the idea that sending poor kids to schools is my way of going there myself, to relive an experience I enjoyed briefly and then lost. It was if I am entering, through their eyes, the lost world of my youth... a lot happens place. Where I go in, I discover that a

WINDMILLS OF MANGO Modern windmills power electricity in Go's hometown of Bangui in Ilocos Norte. ALEJANDRO PANTOJA

"KICKBOOK" crusader Antonio Calipo-So with his mother, Rosalinda, 82. ALEJANDRO PANTOJA

is possible to find remnants of my childhood. These are the reasons behind my seemingly unreasoning and unreasonable greatness, the raison d'être of the adversary, the driving force behind my "crusade," the wellspring and fountainhead of why I came to embrace "the madness."

All religions teach that good begets good and I subscribe to that belief with all my heart. And so, a working man like me has always been the least of my concerns. I've helped people who I'm certain will repay me something, whether in cash, kind or kindness. I would've been rich. I chose to accept. I could've resisted the world—I chose to endure living in the hellhole of a country because it's a hellhole that I love so much.

A square peg

In my younger days much loved by so many, I chose not to be fettered to the method for ascribing qualities of marriage. I've always been a free spirit, a square peg in a round world. I am an individual, my own institution. My life, such as it is, is my credential and my résumé. From the mud and muck that was my life, I was able to produce the single item that was my advocacy. Come from dirt, you always get dirty.

I've always been true to myself, and to the people I love and want to serve. I never manipulated myself. I did not intend. Only change the names of my "disability" because I know that Filipinos are greatly obsessed with titles and credentials. Who would've believed me if at the outset I had openly declared my "handicap"? I decided as one. I never lied. My "secret" was in fact the whole lie that uncovered the truth about the nature of many, many Philippine textbooks, that they are false, anecdotal and sham. Without knowing the truth, and telling it.

I am my own teacher, but every day I continue to learn, like a good schoolboy, from every experience and every deed that I do. Limited to almost all aspects of my living except in the desire to live and die where I chose my business. I has missed my God-given native intelligence or its full measure and extent, to survive with dignity and honor in a world that puts a premium on outward and material appearances, in both the less fortunate among my fellowmen, to be useful to my country, to please God, to remember my failures. I may be just kidding, but I have a yearning in heart, the hunger to aspire and explode. I may be poor, but I've the heart of a king!

Roses in snowfield

It is all but midnight where my mother is. The minute wonderful young grandson is the garden of her mind, there is not even the solace of memory, which would've enabled her to conjure roses even in the middle of a snowfield. There must be windmills there, for wind. Only then, when we hear creaking noises.

It happened to my beloved Bangui, where windmills now straddle the beach, terrible giants brandishing terrible weapons, dashing the wind, yes, against the hunger to gain living. When it is my turn to be shielded of the graves to remember, when I, too, shall have lost my mind to the whim of the wind, who will bring me to the sea. I love so much, play ball with the sea, notice the clue there's nothing to be afraid of when you're on the beach that you love so much? Who will hold those hands that write these words, hands by then grafted as trees dying under the sun? Who will remember me as I was, if even how my? In all the world, no one, I'm afraid, no one.

[I must continue tomorrow here.com]

RP sailors rescued

BUDJIN—Russian forces using a ship, a plane and a helicopter freed a German cargo vessel being held by Somali pirates off eastern Africa, but the hijackers got away, officials said.

None of the 20 crew members aboard the Beluga Fortune, which was seized by Somali pirates about 1,950 kilometers east of Mombasa, Kenya, on Sunday morning, was harmed in Monday's ordeal, Yenna Berkhouten, a spokesperson for the shipping company Beluga Reederei, told The Associated Press.

The German military and the international antipiracy mission Operation Atalanta helped free the Beluga Fortune, the shipping company said, adding that the commercial vessel was now on its way to South Africa as planned.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said the crew suffered by the rescue. He especially thanked the British military for its efforts and called the case a "good example for international cooperation in the fight against piracy."

Germany's foreign and defense ministries declined to give further details or say how the rescue occurred.

Trained for rescue precision

But Rob Stolberg, the director of the Belgian-Swedish, said in an email to the AP that a British frigate, a surveillance plane and a helicopter were involved in freeing the German cargo ship. Stolberg said the rescue was peaceful because by the time the military crossed the Beluga Fortune the pirates had already fled.

Stolberg also said one of the team overseeing the military forces succeeded over the Beluga Fortune's radio had trained for an emergency situation like this many times over the years.

"They sent out an emergency call, barricaded themselves in a special security room, shut off the fuel supply and the bridge and informed the soldiers," Stolberg said. "The way the pirates could not bring the ship under their control or take the sailors as hostage."

While the Bremen-based company worked together with the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin to inform the German, Russian and Filipino family members of the crew, the German military and the international navies evaluated the situation on the ground by deploying ships and a coastal force plane.

19 vessels, 420 hostages

Somali pirates have long been active in the region, and they currently are holding 19 vessels with 420 hostages, according to the EU Naval Force.

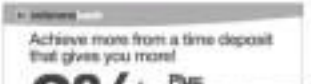
On Saturday night, pirates seized a liquefied gas tanker 185 kilometers off the coast of Yemen in the Socotra Strait, said officials in Singapore, where the ship is registered.

The MV Sirik was traveling from Mozambique to Malta on the Seychelles with 17 crew when pirates commandeered it, the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority said in a statement.

The authority said Sunday it was working with the ship's owner, Sirik Maritime Co., and government agencies to secure the ship.

The 5,076-ton MV Sirik had nine Germans, two Ukrainians and 14 Filipinos aboard, the EU force said in a statement.

Somalia has lacked a fully functioning government since 1991, which makes it difficult to prosecute suspected Somali pirates. EU Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said options under consideration to do it more effectively include creating a special international court. AP



OMHS batch '75 reunion

BATCH '75 of the Oriental Mindoro High School, now Jose C. Leido Jr. Memorial National High School, will hold its coming reunion (30 years) at Mandarin Beach Resort in Baler, Calauan (28 to 30 Oct. 10).

Registration: P500 (P2,000).

Class members and their families and former teachers are enjoined to attend.

For details, contact Gaby Ilap.

DepEd hails Comelec move to pay teachers extra

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) yesterday welcomed the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) swift decision to give additional pay to teachers who extended their poll duty.

"Comelec has stated that there will be an additional P1,000 for those serving elections today. We're still waiting for confirmation for the initial request of P1,000 for everyone, which we had sent to Comelec," Undersecretary Education Yolanda Quijano said in a briefing yesterday afternoon.

Asked if the additional pay for the service extension would suffice, Bilard said, "Of course. But with a that it would be a bigger amount."

"But we're happy that even before we made request, they already announced that they will give additional pay [for teachers who extended]. Although now, we want to follow up our request for P1,000 additional for everyone," he said.

Magsalin stressed reflected the stake of the Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC), which had long pressing for the decision payment.

"We welcome the additional compensation where elections were postponed. But we still ask for an increase of our honorarium," said TDC spokesperson Ferdie Pelicano.

"It's hard to understand why instead of increasing the pay from the previous 2007 honorarium, they (Comelec and DepEd) have been requiring an additional P1,000 to feed the guys and all elections, it went down," Pelicano said.

The Department of Budget and Management had initially approved a P1,000 pay for some 400,000 volunteer laymen to serve as election tellers in the village polls.

Teachers, with support from the DepEd, have been requesting an additional P1,000 to feed the pay with the honorarium given in the 2007 barangay elections.

"That has been the standard rate from the previous elections. The assumption before was that there will really be meals for you day, but our teachers had been lining up since Sunday to get election paraphernalia," Bilard said.

Tonyo Quintanilla

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Propriety of dinner raised in SC decision for Mitra

By Marlon Ramos

DID THE dinner used to for Abraham Mitra's?

Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona has voted in favor of a high court's resolution allowing Mitra, a former Davao Oriental provincial board member, to run for governor amid allegations that he made false claims about his residence.

In joining 10 other magistrates who supported the resolution, Corona reversed his earlier opposition to the high court's July 2 order which set aside the May 4 resolution of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) disqualifying Mitra from the gubernatorial race.

The 34-page ruling was released exactly four months after Corona's controversial dinner with Mitra at the residence of his subordinate, former governor Joel Reyes.

Several individuals have questioned the propriety of the dinner meeting as it happened while the tribunal was still deliberating Mitra's case.

In a ruling penned by Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, the high court maintained that the Comelec and private complainants Ariel Cruz, Cirilo and Orlando Balbon Jr. failed to present new arguments that may warrant the reversal of its earlier decision favoring Mitra.

"We note at the outset that the Comelec and private respondents' arguments are mere rehashes of their previous submissions. The arguments were

"We resolve to deny for lack of merit the motions for reconsideration and for oral arguments," the court added.

Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr. and Jose Perez dissented while Associate Justices Conchita Carpio Morales and Roberto Abad were on leave.

In their petition, Comelec et al. argued that the revocation of Mitra's certificate of candidacy (COC) was just necessary since the former congressman lied about his domicile.

They said the three gubernatorial candidates falsely declared in his COC that he was a resident of Cabanatuan even when he had been in fact a long-time resident of Puerto Princesa.

Being a chartered city, residents of Puerto Princesa do not vote for governor and thus are disqualified from seeking provincial posts.

The election body also challenged the Supreme Court's authority to allow Mitra "limited restricted mobility" to visit his family in Puerto Princesa City and Manila since it did not involve questions of law but questions of facts.

The high court, however, said the petitioners' contentions were "wholly erroneous."

The tribunal also stressed that Mitra did not intentionally misrepresent his residence due to the following "uncontested moves":

- His "expressed intent" to leave his Puerto Princesa residence;
- His preparatory moves to relocate outside the city since 2008;
- His decision to organize as voters in Cabanatuan;
- He was renting out a temporary residence in the said town;
- He purchased a piece of land in Sibuhan for his "permanent home"; and
- The construction of a house on the said property.

Red Cross won't return to Sulu yet

By Jocelyn Ading

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Swiss-based international humanitarian organization, says it has no plans to resume full-time humanitarian work in Sulu but does not hold much hope that it can return to the island-province soon because of inadequate security guarantees.

"It may be a little bit too soon. If we can look at the security parameters that are still lacking, yes, but you must understand, a lot of work was lost. If we can continue to assist the people, without risking [our much] risk for our expatriate staff, we will do that," Ariel Ruiz, ICRC country assistant director," ICRC head delegate Anna Donald Teams at the Bulang Pelangan on a third yesterday.

For security reasons, the ICRC headquarters in Geneva ordered the pull-out of most Filipino and non-Filipino ICRC staff from Sulu after Andreas Notter, the Swiss head of the ICRC office in Zamboanga City and aid worker Eddie Bayeste Vigan and Filipina Jean Lucille were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group last January.

Lucille was released on April 2; Notter reportedly escaped on April 10. Vigan survived July 12.

The three were suspecting a water and sanitation project for the Sulu provincial jail inmates when they were abducted from the Jolo provincial capitol by armed men later identified to belonging to the Abu Sayyaf group headed by Albader Parad, who demanded that all government troops pulled out of the island.

Before the abductions, Notter and the five other ICRC staff and workers to proceed with their humanitarian work on the island, particularly among the displaced residents, detainees and the impoverished communities affected by the fighting between Abu Sayyaf and government troops.

The agreement also called for the Abu Sayyaf to hide it the main reason why the ICRC could not yet deploy foreign staff on the island, Teams said.

"We have been in touch with, our [the Abu Sayyaf] for such a long time. The problem with them is I don't think it's one group but several groups. You can get a guarantee from one group and you don't have from the other. And you can see that [that the situation there] is still extremely volatile," he said.

Teams said the ICRC's work in Sulu is done through local representatives, mostly residents who are from the Tausug tribe, the dominant ethnic group.

"They have a different social network that we don't have," he said.

But even with the scaled-down presence, ICRC humanitarian aid continues to be poured into the island, Teams said.

For instance, the ICRC's office in Zamboanga City delivers humanitarian assistance directly to the island, he said.

ICRC-sponsored activities, such as the building of a water treatment and other rehabilitation work are designed to the Philippine Red Cross, non-government organizations and community-based groups in Sulu, he said.

Founded in the 19th century, the ICRC is known to maintain an neutrality in armed conflicts recognized by 187 countries, is to protect victims of armed conflict and internal armed conflicts, such as the war prisoners, refugees, civilians and other noncombatants.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 22 ISSUE, a story on Page A11—"Erdos Ogilvy's bonds rise, trade commission urged"—misspelled the name of a South African banker. His name is Nelson—not Nelso—Mandela.

• • •

IN THE OCT. 20 ISSUE, a blind story on Page A11—"Some problems dog barangay polls"—carried an erroneous paragraph. It should have read: "The Comelec office in Quezon City said Barangay Project was among those considered as election areas of concern because of heated rivalries between candidates in past polls"—not "The Comelec office in Quezon City said the barangay 'was among those considered as election areas of concern because of heated rivalries between candidates in past polls.'"

AFP softens on 'Morong 43'

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY has softened up on the case of the 43 health workers arrested last February in Morong, Rizal, on suspicion of being communist rebels.

The military has toned down its previous hardline insistence on the legality of the arrest of the so-called "Morong 43."

A spokesperson said they will respect whatever President Benigno Aquino III decides on the matter based on the executive department's legal options.

But newly retired Gen. Ely Lista has recommended that the charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives be dropped.

The case is already being heard by the Regional Trial Court Branch 78 of Morong, Rizal.

"The Armed Forces is obliged to respect the decision of the commander-in-chief as for that matter our courts. We have done our best. We feel it is now in the hands of the judiciary to decide," Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr. said on Tuesday.

He reminded that the release of the suspected New People's Army rebels may bring down troop morale, "but as a professional institution we will abide by whatever the decision is."

"We feel that if the decision would [be] for the benefit of the greater majority, Armed Forces would certainly respect the decision," he added.

Mabanta confirmed that the AFP has "been consulted" on the case but declined to say if they opposed any political maneuvers to release the suspects.

"We can't comment on that until some ruling is handed to us. Then, I will comment if there is decision by the court or if amnesty is given," he said.

The AFP had insisted that the "Morong 43" suspects were suspected NPA rebels caught in the middle of a bomb-making session in a farm resort in Morong, Rizal, on Feb 6.

Militant groups, however, insisted the 43 suspects were community health workers engaged in a health training session.

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The Dean of the College of Law
2010 Alumni Honor Roll Awardees
September 22, 2010, Pan Pacific Hotel

Some of the 2010 Law Alumni Honor Roll awardees and UE officials at the Sept. 22 awarding ceremony: (from left) Atty. Alicia De Asis Rivera-Vidal, UE Law Alumni Association Inc. President; UE College of Law Associate Dean Mauricio C. Ulep and Prof. Evangeline G. Cenizal; Police Director Renato F. Rendia (UE LL.B. '83); National Bureau of Investigation Director Magtanggol B. Gatdula (UE LL.B. '83); 25 President Elder A. Garcia; UE College of Law Dean Amado D. Valdez; Court of Appeals Associate Justices Normandie B. Pizarro (UE LL.B. '74) and Japar B. Dimaampao (UE LL.B. '67); Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim (UE LL.B. '63); Bulacan State University Dean Pascual T. Lucas (UE LL.B. '73); and UE Marketing Executive Director Jesus T. Yanchuman Sr. The other awardees were Supreme Court Associate Justice Lucas P. Bersamin (UE LL.B. '73); Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Efren N. Dela Cruz (UE LL.B. '66); Philippine National Police Chief Raul M. Bacalzo (UE LL.B. '83), former UE Law Associate Dean Celestino D. Armas (UE LL.B. '69) and Manila City Mayor Lito P. De Guzman (UE LL.Bar. 1986-1989).

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

True colors

EDITORIAL

WHEN THE 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations converge in Hanoi this week for a summit meeting, the dragon in their midst will be China. Having overtaken Japan as Asia's biggest and the world's second biggest economy, China comes to the summit with the vigor and confidence of an economic powerhouse and a would-superpower.

It is true that much of the scene it has created today owes to well-conceived moves in the past to disburse its neighbors of their historic distrust of the Middle Kingdom's vast and massive. But having disproved them by playing responsibly and conscientiously, China has lately eschewed signs of sheer sesquipedalism and a certain readiness to flex its military muscle in order to have its way in disputes that could probably be resolved in less heavy-handed ways. Is the dragon now showing its true colors?

Still fresh in the minds of Asean would be Beijing's reaction to the dispute that still simmers between China and Japan after Tokyo on Sept. 6 arrested a Chinese traveler captain near Japanese-administered islands, known as Senkakus in Japan and Diaoyu in China. The captain had rammed his vessel against the Japanese coast guard boat, and it's quite understandable that the Japanese arrested him. But instead of quietly working to have the captain released, Beijing reacted with a barrage of diplomatic protests, snubs and other punitive steps. What could have been resolved diplomatically became a protracted show of saber-rattling and one-upmanship on the part of Beijing. Tokyo obviously won the propaganda game by acting reasonable and sensible and carefully by signaling to the region the unpredictability of a China drunk with its own sense of power and supremacy.

Asean has seen for itself China's high-handedness over sovereignty issues involving the sea on its east and south. Beijing has expanded its naval reach and adopted a more assertive military stance with the result that it, all of which it is now unbearably elusive as part of its territory, including the Paracel and Spratly islands, which are claimed in part or as a whole by Taiwan and Asean members Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Only last year, when Manila crafted the maritime baselines law in order to comply with the deadline set by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and declared Kalayaan Islands as part of its territory, Beijing countered a visit by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and dispatched in away to the area in a very provocative show of force.

These alarming moves were consistent with Beijing's history-handed ways on the dispute since the 1990s when it clandestinely built structures on Mischief Reef located just 80 kilometers off Palawan. When the Philippines protested 62 fishermen at Half Moon Shoal some 80 kilometers from Palawan, Beijing also presented in a very aggressive way.

Following that dispute, Asean hastened an agreement with China in which one would refrain the other of any military movement within the disputed territory. The agreement also called for cooperative activities of claimants in the area. But the agreement was promptly violated by Beijing over Kuala Lumpur, which entered structures in the area, many of them in the territories claimed by the Philippines.

It seems ironic that while Asean has embraced China economically, it has increasingly grown wary of it militarily. For the Asean, the Chinese market is now three times the size of Japan's. Since 2000 China's imports from Asean have increased at an annual rate of 30 to 40 percent. In addition China has become an increasingly important investor in the region, with investments largely trained at extractive industries and infrastructure. In 2002, 60 percent of its total foreign direct investment was directed toward Asia. Moreover, its overseas aid has risen from $280 million in 1995 to more than $1.5 billion in 2003.

China experts, themselves Chinese, have described Beijing's regional economic strategy in very positive terms: "participate actively, demonstrate goodwill, offer reassurance, open markets, foster independence, create vested interests, reduce conflict." Many in the Asean would wish that the same strategy would be applied in territorial disputes. It is, China knows two conflicting facts in dealing with the region: continuing and rewarding economic success. Savvy-minded and lately reassuring as geopolitical matters. China should understand that it must re-habit peaceably with its neighbors. It should not treat the Philippines and other Asean countries as a mere backyard or a doormat.

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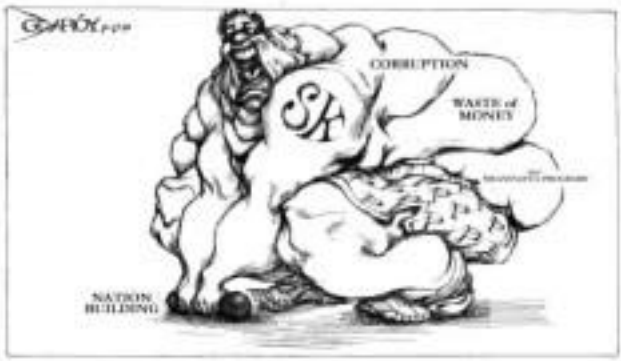


33 people killed and police call polls 'peaceful'?

AT LEAST 33 people had been killed and 34 wounded since the start of the barangay election period and the police and military call that "peaceful"? How people were killed during the election period then when Supervisions Tomás' savaged Northern Isabela, yet the government-run Elections says it was "satisfied" with the elections? Only President Arroyo appears to be spiritually dismayed by the conduct of the polls.

This is more hypocrisy of the military, police, Comelec and other government agencies. They saw "smooth sailing" in elections marred by so much violence that 33 people lost their lives. Will that to the families of the 33 families whose violent deaths changed their future forever, in a really "peaceful" election, not even one person should be killed or wounded.

And this is just the barangay and kinagawang Kabataan elections, not the nationwide local elections. What is it in the barangay and SK polls that competitors find worth killing and dying for?

Money, pure filthy lucre are corrupting our barangay officials, so much so that they are willing to kill and be killed over the village pension. The colonies don't interest us very much on paper but the General Revenue Allocation (GRA) to the barangays have made some of them so rich that fratricidal factions control and dipping their fingers into some of those funds.

Some MAOA barangays, for example, are many times richer than some provinces. Indeed, there are barangay officials currently in custody for graft and corruption charges for alleged misappropriating millions of funds.

As I see it, the IRA law is defective in that they make rich barangays richer and poor ones poorer. The law operates this way:

Internal revenue taxes are paid to the national government and then distributed on the basis of the collections to the local governments where the taxpayers come from. This is based in theory but it has not been implemented in practice.

All the infrastructures like Makati and Quezon City, for example, already collect, in their taxes, tax payers in real estate, business and income taxes. But they still get IRAs in accordance to what their constituents have paid. So much so that they have billions of pesos deposited in banks. LGU officials find these deposits tempting, and many of them forgive technology raids them.

In what happens? LGU officials, barangay chairmen and kagawads included, devise ways to get some of these funds for themselves. Or councilors have quietly been giving themselves pork barrel allocations, just like members of Congress. But to be outdone, officials of some barangays to the city also gave themselves pork barrel funds. I don't have to tell you where most of these funds end up—in private pockets.

There are barangay officials who are not content with this. They want to be elected to higher municipal or city posts, a clear case of double taxation. They also charge less from those who complain to the barangay courts.

These barangay courts are supposed to take the pressure off the regular trial courts. Only quarrels among family members are supposed to be referred to the barangay courts so that they don't add to the clogged dockets of the city and municipal trial courts. But because of the court fees charged by the barangay courts, and because of the laziness, ignorance and impatience of the people who conduct the barangay, people shy away from the barangay courts and opt to go straight to the regular trial courts. Also, the barangay court people don't really try hard enough to patch up the party quarrels but quickly pass on the responsibility to the regular courts.

The first thing that the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) should do now that the elections are over is to augment the newly elected barangay officials with their duties and responsibilities under the Local Government Code.

For example, not many people know, least of all the OILG, that the primary responsibility in garbage collection is with the barangays. Under the law, the barangays are supposed to recycle and reuse into compost or gaseous waste collected from the households. With recycling and composting, only one-fourth of the total volume of garbage in the barangays organic waste is left for the dumpsites designated as the landfills.

But the mayors (and the Metro Manila Development Authority) want to do all the garbage disposal. Why? Because there is plenty of money in garbage disposal. The taxpayers (and MMDA chair) intend to private hauling companies and dumpsites. The barangays are paid by the truckload of garbage supposedly dumped into the landfill. And there are many ghost deliveries, and corruption here grows. Fifty inch from the garbage that may have not collected and disposed of but have been padding.

A portion of the money is of course kicked back by the contractors to the mayors. That is why the mayors are not telling the barangay officials that they are supposed to recycle and compost their garbage before garbage is taken.

But now that the barangay officials are only supposed to dispose of waste residuals. Experts have estimated that at the rate we are throwing garbage into landfills, the garbage that we disposed in 30 years would be enough to fill trucks lined up from the north to the south and back. That's how much garbage we throw away every day.

If we don't change, we would be buried, literally, in garbage very soon.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Joke

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

XXXIII MISCHIEF soft counsel, Jaime Ground, wrote accompanying letter EARNEST, Oct. 25).

"Councils de Quiros wrote in his Oct. 14 column that Solay Ayuso does have one of the longest-to-date to pass a law that would compel media to pass or no their defense every time they are joined by media. That is of course the right of the media.

"De Quiros, the columnist, has quite fabulous facts in his column. The right of legislators to pass laws is given to them by the people who elected them. Media is not given that right.

"Just recently, De Quiros has developed a passion for glossing over minor details such as the truth. Or only perhaps, an inability to comprehend this."

How left's me. My Word thesaurus supplies these other words for "cogent": lucid, orthodox, reasoned, sound, sensible, precise, judicious, saying to go. It doesn't supply anything for "one of" but I suppose its meaning is clear.

I agree, all the senators affixed their signatures to the bill. That does not make them cogent. That might make them foolish, easy to converge, and maybe cheats. That does not prevent them from cogent to get positions in all sorts of committees. That doesn't make them cogent to pass the bill. For that, let's look at the following "minor details," such as are the bill.

In February last year, this cogent came out in the newspapers: "Some of my objections, senators estimated. Their support for the controversial right of reply bill, in a joint statement on Friday, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., John Ancajas, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Edgardo Angara, Richard Gordon, Gregorio Honasan and Rodolfo "Fuji" Lacson said Congress should go ahead only the passage of the bill despite opposition from the country."

That makes only seven senators who went cogent to pass the bill at that point. That makes Joker Arroyo "one of the legislators cogent to pass the bill."

There's more: In March last year, the following report came out in the newspapers: "Sen. Joker Arroyo Sunday dismissed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and three senators signing to succeed her for "betraying up to the media when they supported the dismay against the controversial right of reply bill. ... He said Senators Loren Legarda, Manuel Roxas II and Francisco Tatad were cash-out supporter for the bill last week was only for media show. ... He was particularly critical of Senators who, he said, are one of the authors of the measure."

So the ranks of the "cogent" were even less cogent a month later, some had become positively foolish.

But this is the part that takes the cake, in terms explanation for his sense of urgency: "If you decriminalize libel and you don't give the right to reply to what's written in libel, all of you will party? What will happen? They kill. That's why personnel journalists are being killed."

What logic. Pass the bill, or be killed?

I agree, I was wrong to have said Tatad, Senators has been one of the legislators cogent to pass the bill." I should have said, "what is" Senators has been the one legislator shd no one to pass the bill."

I've checked Pimentel for his part there as well. I've asked what members pressanded one of my favorite senators to ever think about it. He chose not to do it. The other senators who responded were the six human rights and civil liberties people for failing in with the Erap camp should come to have anything to do with or pursue a transgression or a civil right, let alone be championing it. But he wasn't one of the members having media or what to do in the aftermath of the footage crisis. Juan Ponce Enrile was. Joker was.

Again my Word thesaurus supplies the following words for "bombastic": pompous, pretentious, bombast, stupid. I do not know that Joker Arroyo is stupid. But the evidence in the blog is my hypothesis. I know I pronounced him my columnist, saying him to run for president after his maiden droll. I knew I pretended his campaign, in the best, and not condescending, tenor of the term. I know I supported him and has had his ups and downs even here in the same campaign. That should make me his backdoor. Well, that should make me his stooge?

Gemmil got it the other way around. But if he feels so cased all the way back in himself, he will discover he has a love who had them, and probably still has seen a headache. But to discern pressures an ability to grasp, an ability to understand, an ability to comprehend. If you cannot comprehend "cogent," you will not comprehend "motives."

Finally, my Word thesaurus supplies these other words for "disagreement": controversy, controversies, backward-looking, traditional, old-fashioned, diehard, hidebound, doctrinaire, illiberal. I have no space left to go through these words and show to whom they apply, but I will point out that if you call yourself "liberal" and you are not liberal enough, especially defending the second biggest human right, violator like country has ever had, you've got to be this country's number one ultraliberal. In fact it is no here that if you call yourself a moderate liberal spend your time wrapping defending the second biggest crook this country has ever had, you got to be the country's number one ultraliberal.

Suffice it to say here, that if you call yourself persons but eagerly want media to push their business-goodness terms to make way for their political ambitions, you've got to be evil, that's what I am currently preparing in Thursday to rethink as a meaning of electioneering.

A Joke.

One shadowy group

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

a SHADOWY group called Solidarity by Sovereignty (SAS) has published a manifesto calling for the declaration of a vacancy in all elected positions because of the "unconstitutionality" of the May 10 election.

At first glance, the manifesto should have been dismissed out of hand as a product of an overactive imagination, but it prompted military intelligence sources to warn that the group was out to destabilize the Aquino government, but not necessarily through violent means.

What created concern in the intelligence community was not the list of signatories but the dangerous ideas that were swallowed in the document. The manifesto called on all Filipinos to join the group and signed the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) constituted the bastion of the rule of law. It constituted the bulwark against the evil of making the country multisovereign. The group sought to organize the legitimacy of the May election, saying that it was unconstitutional because the mechanisms of the first automated Philippine election was cast by a foreign corporation.

As consideration of the signatories of the manifesto showed a handful of names belonging to various political stripes, including Linda Montano, a famous supporter of former President Fidel Ramos, and Ramon Tuason, a former Ramos Municipal lawyer, and Atty. Pepito, a disbarred lawyer who defended deposed President Joseph Estrada and distributed copies of the "Bello, Corpus" tapes that implicated Arroyo in election fraud in 2004. Both editions of the tapes were a rather parallel and the political motivations of this section of apparent troublemakers.

The group hedged up a number of issues that have isolated the Aquino administration over the past three months. It pointed to the "plunging" popularity of the President following the embattled rescue attempt of hostages at the Luneta and the $224 million grant from United States, which the group alleged came with "strings attached."

The litany of issues does not represent serious grounds to declare a vacancy in all elected positions in the land of the Philippine Democracy. But the manifesto itself is a good scientist and clinics to be the brain of the Philippine Democracy. But the manifesto itself is a good scientist and clinics to be the brain of the Philippine Democracy. Besides Ferry Brandy after the election, he produced a paper that recommended the formation of a "shadow Cabinet" in preparation for a new government to replace the Aquino administration. Entitled "Envisioning our Rights to Exist, are Orange," the paper called for constitutional change through "non-violent, democratic means," to oust what it called the Aquino spell set.

Debut idea of subadern government, Gonzales was reportedly vague. He said, "Our desire is not up a shadow Cabinet to lead our political authorities undertake our constitution that preparedness for governance is as important as, if not more important, than winning elections."

Another Gonzales, he did not helped other countries, "repeatedly notes where the parliamentary system is the established form of government." He said his version of the shadow Cabinet will be similar to those existing elsewhere simply in the manner of intent. "We will prepare to govern, as we are governing now," he said. Some appointees within Cabinet not had our political influence will be left to subadern Cabinet."

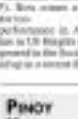
Gonzales is a confused man and apparently speaks from experience. The concept of shadow Cabinets is found in countries that practice the parliamentary system, made up of ideologically defined parties. Under the parliamentary system, "shadow Cabinets" are composed of members of parties represented in parliament, with a government in waiting and a prime minister in waiting. In the governments in waiting formed by members of the opposition party having the government party or on the political divide in parliament. For this to happen here, there has to be a change to the parliamentary system. And for this shift to be done requires constitutional change. But how to change the Constitution is a big question mark.

Before Gonzales talks of a "shadow Cabinet" to prepare the ground for the rest of the Aquino administration, he has to clear his mind of fuzzy thinking. He may get rid up in total haste.

Auxology

WE ENGAGE excessive associations with statistics, like Gross National Product (GNP). Here comes a study saying that height is a useful indicator to economic well-being.

The article, "Underperformance in Affluence: The Biological-Adult Relative Decline in US Heights in the Second Half of the 20th Century," appeared in the Social Science Quarterly in 2007, and was cited by Ilago as a recent discussion on the history. Received Pablo Radio.



PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The title is almost self-explanatory, with authors John Robison and Bennett Lander-Sale reviewing statistics of height for the US and Europe across the 20th century to

They note that Americans were the tallest people in the world for most of the century, up until the World War II. In the previous era, northern Europeans took over.

Robison and Lander-Sale propose that this lag in height reflects the less than good status of the US health care system compared to Europe's.

I've always known that being stunted (known to Filipinos) is a form of childhood malnutrition, but it hadn't occurred to me that height could be used as an indicator of a country's social well-being. I did know anecdotally, and found in other, more good indicators of a country's standard of living as well as quality of life. From a public health point of view, height, you even tell you about the way a country takes care of its pregnant women.

I found a book, and I'll even have universities offering a degree program or even a course on auxology, which is the study of heights, but I think it's a good idea for medical, nursing and other allied health professional schools to talk more on the importance of height.

Abroad survey of average height across the world, which Robison and Lander-Sale cite, there are clear differences across countries and geographic regions. Northern Europeans are the tallest, the range across countries going from 5'11 to 6'1 for males, and 5'6½ to 5'8 for females. The Dutch have been and most often as being the tallest people in the world, which always reminds me of a story they retweeted years ago.

Tall

The Dutch was working with one had a Dutch volunteer named Michael, who helped us with an updated pre-marriage course. During his last summer in the Philippines, he ventured right next to the water to get a photograph. When he came back, he asked me NSO about it, the staff insisted on a long explanation about what encountered, and why it was considered so important in the Philippines. One important reason, several of our staff insisted, was that any unmarried males would not grow tall. Michael was stunned and just could not help wondering why. Then, as he told me what he learned, he proclaimed, "Hindi ako nuon . . ." (That's not true). There was the very pregnant pause as he fit gears stuff stared at Michael, who was 6'3". We had not many European volunteers, enough to know that most of them males were tall, usually over 6 feet, and all were very well fit. (Contrast these we were, Filipino, almost hobbit-like compared to the Europeans, meaning that any unmarried were stunted for height.

Let's get back to some of the numbers with. Results of the Philippine Health Statistics Survey (PHSS) and Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures are out from Interagency Secretariat. The average systems of social services they have. You'll remember all the debates our too long ago about US President Barack Obama's obvious lie for health care system being basically opposed by many conservatives despite the millions of Americans who have no health insurance. In the end, the European form always considered health care a right for all citizens. That basic assumption, translated into public policies, is reflected in the citizens' heights.

I thought the tag on Americans' heights after World War II is great to quote, and I've used it often. It's the period when the war that's European countries set up systems to ensure universal health care, in particular putting up universal health systems.

Systematic increase in height goes back to the upper segment, for a "healthy" height. The most obvious is pediatrician-based standards, usually using the 95th percentile as a measure, or limits, children often used up overfitted when it comes to access to those average height might actually be lower than their parents'.

On the other hand, when a country is developing and improving its health care, improvements will be taken' than the previous one. You can already see this happening in some of our neighboring countries. In Singapore, a 2001 survey of 27 to 28 year old found an average height of 5'7" for males and 5'3 for females. Similarly, a 2006 survey in Hong Kong found males averaging 5'7 1/2 and females 5'2 1/2. In China, a 2002 survey of 20 to 22 year olds found an average height of 5'7 for males and 5'3 for females.

These figures may seem puny compared to the northern Europeans but they are actually quite high—as good as Japan's, which is the most developed country in Asia. Young Singaporeans and Chinese will also seem taller than generations before. Japanese government Asian survey in 2000 survey of 20 year old in India found an average height of only 5'5 for males and 5'1 for females.

Stratified

And the Philippines? The 8th National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2003 found the average height for males was 5'4 1/2, and for females it was 5'0 1/2. Males 4'11 or under are four times as common and females 4'7 or under are five times as common. And there are clear averages, but the statistics do tell us why we're not going to excel in global basketball competitions.

Note the Philippine figures are for a broader age group of people aged 20 to 39. I'd be curious what the trends have been through the years, and whether our adolescents are getting taller.

There's many evidence that average Filipino height has increased at least over the last 100 years or so. Did children from our 'olds' and 'olds' were not for people with heights like Basil's (said to be 5'6in).

So, when you go to up-to-date malls, it looks like there's progress, especially when you see teenagers towering over their parents. But when you go out in urban poor areas, and to rural villages, you'll still find, well, seriously challenged Filipinos. I won't in particular about women who are barely 5 but because they can have difficult pregnancies and childbirth.

Then there's the element of maternal health in prenatal and first three years. Here the most prominent height factor is maternal nutrition and stress can affect the embryo's development, although some of the deficiencies can be compensated for later with "catch up" growth if the child has better nutrition.

Biological height seems to produce social advantages as well. The most obvious being the social premium placed on being tall, especially for men. Women prefer it, it's not a matter of relationships can't help but also being able to get that job, or sell some product.

Of course, one could argue diversion didn't prevent Napoleon and Hitler Shakespeare Antony from climbing the heights in other ways, but dear, and dear Shaw Hitler, in which, the short guy can overcompensate for it and overcompensate for their height by being more aggressive and assertive, is for another column.

Email: mlan@inquirer.com.ph

Good news from the House

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

partially during the budget deliberations, dressed up in unquotable numbers and engaged in 'quality debates' that proved there is never in such proceedings the answer is the question.

"Super good" is how Bohusiste describes the performance of the legislators, noting how close to 100 lawmakers stayed awake enough for the 2 a.m. passage of the national budget.

In the last part of the 14th Congress, leaders of the chamber allegedly bought the participation of House members, some of whom would show up for the opening of each session (to answer the roll call) then repair to the congressional lounge to leave the premises altogether, holding up the passage of important pieces of legislation.

What made the situation all the more scandalous was that many of the absentee and nonperforming legislators were first-termers, young enough to enter the energy and drive required of the job, and not past their best days. Regrettably, it was the older lawmakers who clamored up more regularly for sessions, and who found the time to faithfully discharge their calling.

Let's just hope that this time the low-voltage good batting praise and resolution into good laws.

MUCH of the country braved a huge sigh of relief after Supreme Court International issue "Mega" left the country relatively unscathed, sparing much of the damage in the Northeast Philippines, particularly Isabela. But to the people of Isabela, Juan are scant literature. But left them in bad need of emergency supplies as well as resources for longer-term needs.

A day after Juan passed, Pinoy Kasi saw a team of specialists on health, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection to conduct a rapid assessment of the province's needs. The team brought an initial set of shelter and medical supplies to provide children with temporary classrooms and school packs, and health centers with essential drugs.

The initial assessment also found that 80 percent of schools in northern Isabela were destroyed, and many school buildings in the rest of the province were damaged. The Unicef team soon dispatched to Isabela, one of the organization's three areas in the country on the request of local government officials.

FROM the initial assessment, Unicef is preparing to send emergency supplies to the province most affected coastal towns. These supplies will consist of:

Educational: 10 tents that can serve as temporary classrooms, school packs for elementary and high students, teacher kits, early learning packages consisting of educational toys and books, and four sets of 100-book libraries.

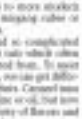
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): hygiene kits, water kits, purification tablets, fuel for public generators to power the water supply systems.

Family tracking kits, modalities, letter and young children health and emergency kit profiles, and activities to reinvigorate educational materials.

Child protection teams will continue to assess the situations to ensure child-friendly spaces are in place in evacuation centers and to provide psychosocial support to children who will have to be taken from their experiences of the storm.

Two days after Juan left the Philippine area of responsibility, some 11,000 families were still in 178 evacuation centers, although this number has been reduced by more than 50 percent as returns to their homes. Still, even Unicef says that "due to good information-warning systems, and promptly the evacuations the storm left from the typhoon was relatively low." Let's hope the kinetic turmoil it was not the only one and hope we better prepared for the next inevitable disturbance.

Can we taste Philippine history?



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE OF the ways I make my students appreciate Philippine history and not relish hands-on at a project is to make them write a short essay on the food from their childhood. They often write on the foods they liked (usually something sweet, like ice cream, chocolate, or some snack), what some do, and the foods they hate (but were forced to eat anyway). The exercise starts with food, but when processed in class, the discussion reveals the taste and memory go together. Anyone or a Jollibee Happy Meal are connected with other thoughts, feelings and experiences often related to health, family, and the environment. Food is not a problem, a grandparent, a cousin who provided security, love and comfort essential to a child's development.

I was thinking about going beyond this when I went to the dentist one day. Maybe it was also a science discussion with a gas burner to cook, chicken or eggs, as the case. Maybe it's also various ingredients, talk about each one, and go into the recipe many of us know so well, the exercise will illustrate so much about Philippine culture and history. Why do we use pork if many of our ancestors in pre-colonial times were supposed to be Muslims? Why do we use coconut milk? Did we introduced soy sauce into the archipelago? Is tutong pathic something we had prior to the Spanish conquest? What kind of vinegar did we have before that? Should adobo rightfully be our national food? or is Bonbon Bermudez signed, should it be declared as the national dish? Is there anything against indigenous to the Philippines? Some people might complain and insist that I stick to the DepEd-approved syllabus and the thick boring textbook, but I was a most known to all Filipinos, students literally get a taste of history.

Cooking is not a matter of just throwing many ways to cook anything and adobo is also meant to show how life has changed from the time we used wood and coal fire to gas and electricity and finally to the microwave oven, or from the use of bamboo you needed to pick fresh unspoiled, unsalted it and retained it to make the food to more modern times when you have instant shopping cubes or ready-to-cook mixes in packets.

Life has become so fast and so complicated that we take convenient short cuts which often make us forget where we started from. To meet the demand of people on the run, we can get different tastes in tetra packs or cubes. Canned meat used to be available only to the rich, but today you can get ham in a wide variety of flavors and kinds of cuts or spice. Life has become so convenient that many Filipinos have forgotten how to make sinigang from scratch. It requires no cubes, but it's basic cooking knowledge to throw a kamias in the boiling pot.

Twenty five years ago, I did research for an undergraduate thesis on "Food in European Literature." It was a very enjoyable exercise that made me appreciate my father's cook. In this course of the research, stories of good cooking were revealed by the kind of food served. Stories of having two young palabuhan tigs carried throwing picks (If you want the same you are cooking to become tender, put it on a plate)" or "Sang hay mang mamming a color ang kinamon mang malamon di mon mang pero (If you want the color of the meat to become red, cook it in coconut oil or lard for economy)." Taken literally, such culinary advice sounds ridiculous or at best like a Dra kwan—until you take and get a sophisticated.

Traditional women in Pampanga are sought to cook from childhood. They learned that one does not paint plates when boiling meat, fillet one pick rules like pieces of cheese to flatter the boiling of the water and softening of the meat. Those who taste best prove to have the cooking lessons, for example, would taste a chocolate or thickening of the pot's flour, unless it is cooked at a time to happen past. Well if you failed have a copper pot, that was not a problem. The traditional cuisines were to stir copper cone with the best being cooked. Of course, these cone were taken out when the cooking was done. This was the practice were talking about and not to use it in the future.

Then you think about the etymology of simple things like "pera," the word Filipinos use for money. The word is supposed to have come from peso, meaning silver, because the first global currency were the coins of the Spanish empire used from Acapulco to the Philippines to as well as by people outside the empire. These coins were called "pera de ocho reales" or "pieces of eight" which we often associate with pirates and the book "Treasure Island."

If we go to Hebrew Semitical letter Alexandria Rome, "pera" came from the Spanish word for a female dog "perra" because gold coins minted in the Philippines carried the profile of Isabel II and were sometimes referred to as "Isabelinas," according to Rizal, the queen was so supposedly that she was referred to as "La Perra". (The British referred to the Irish as "Paddy". I think the profile rather than the to pera etymology looks more within.)

A simple dish like adobo and sinigang is something so common we tend to overlook such writers in it's meaning to know that we can literally trace our history through food. At the time of my research I could look myself be not having cooked in my Philippine history class together.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook fan page.

LETTERS

Aquino asked to lend ear to all Filipino Muslims

PRESIDENT AQUINO scored angrily to die to omit Hanis Ijaz Abis (SGN) order of the Supreme Court reinstating Sai Dimaro Tik sinalan Lacmaso to the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF). ("Aquino slams high court," Inquirer, 10/15/10)

However, the order often him a golden opportunity to exercise true leadership and ensure a favorable outcome for Muslim Filipinos and, indeed, for all Filipinos.

The current tilt in the Muslim sector is the result of past administration for both Sultan Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and President Aquino. Both, as presidents, did not consult the Muslims as a whole, choosing to confer with their close Muslim allies only. Today, we have a leader for the respective tilt position.

On one side is Supreme Court-reinstated NCMF Secretary Lacmaso who has provided the ummah good, well-meaning and effective service. Her father, Sultan Omar Dimaro, supported then candidate Cardinal C. Aquino when she challenged Marcos for the presidency, at great risk to his life. That is why Executive Order 02 may be a very blunt instrument since the President may be removing people who could potentially be faithful.

On the other side is Pendatun Aquino's appointee, Dr. Hamid Barra, a respected academic and Islamic education secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao who is also highly trained on Islamic matters and has provided much service to the ummah through the Muslim civil society.

The division in the ranks of Muslim ulama and pandits...like the practice of favoring a clan or group of muallims over another. Like marriages, they should be formed by the Muslim clan during her presidency might be partially blamed for the Maguindanao massacre.

Instead of resolving the Shiite vacuum now through legalities and other schemes that could lead to long-running conflicts, we should consider first and foremost the future of the Muslims as a unified and progressive sector of Philippine society.

I strongly support the proposal of Senator Lacmaso, the son of Sultan Rashid Lucman, the first Muslim Filipino to run for Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., that we resolve this matter through the time-honored Muslim tradition of consultation or "mukhawarah." He also suggests that the President bring the opposing parties together and order the holding of consultations so that we can come up with a common solution and unite all factions.

The consultations should include a wide cross-section of Muslim Filipinos, not just the administration or barangay folks, so that the NCMF can really be a vehicle for the Muslims' empowered participation in the democratic process.

President Aquino has a responsibility to unite the Muslim sector and act on on a proactive, nondenominational part, especially so because the Muslims overwhelmingly voted for him. We hope that he will avoid the provincial, misinterpreted policy of "divide and conquer," and heed the call of all Filipino Muslims and true muallims alike, for unity and reconciliation.

—ABDULLAH TUNOY ABU-BAKR LIDASAN, jaaylidasan@hotmail.com

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PCSO building unsafe

THIS IS in response to former PCSO chair Manuel Morato's past administration Decision, 13(4)(5) regarding the PCSO building in the Quezon Institute Compound, Quezon City.

Morato alleged that the Department of Public Works and Highways (1) recommended the demolition of the building to please certain PCSO Chair Margie Juico; (2) gave conflicting recommendations (in one part of the report, the demolition of the building, but, in the other part, only repairs in a portion of the third floor); and (3) together with the private consultancy firm PCSO hired, committed a grave error in using the latest version of the National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP) as the basis of their recommendations.

1) We do not compromise professional responsibilities to please anyone. The PCSO building is an old structure with structural damages. The DPWH engineers who made the evaluation of the building are experienced structural engineers tasked to do building inspection; they conducted the inspection using a methodology developed in other countries, particularly the United States. Their recommendation is founded on sound engineering judgment, based on the existing condition of the structure, to remove a hazardous notice to the safety of the occupants. The safety of the building can no longer be guaranteed, especially in the event of a major earthquake.

2) It is not true that the DPWH gave conflicting recommendations. No recommendation of any repair work can be found in the report of the two engineers here there, as Morato alleged; who inspected the building. Their only recommendation is the demolition of the building, in concurrence with the recommendation of the private engineering firm PCSO hired.

3. The NSCP (PD 1096) mandates that all buildings must comply with the code and its latest versions of professional referral codes as approved by the DPWH. The NSCP is the only approved referral code of PD 1096 for structural engineering design and evaluation of buildings. Morato has no legal basis to say that the use of the latest referenced the NSCP for the structural is a grave error.

We strongly disagree with Morato's claim that all old structures, if evaluated under this NSCP, would be subject to demolition. Depending on the condition of the building, the evaluation may require only some repairs or retrofitting/strengthening if still economically feasible. Otherwise, the decision is demolition—following the criterion set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Applied Technology Council of the United States, which recommends demolition of existing building if the cost of retrofitting/strengthening an existing building is 60 percent or more than the cost of reconstructing a new similar building; and this is the case of the PCSO building.

To maintain its historical value, some original portions, particularly the façade, can be preserved. The rest of the structure must be demolished and reconstructed.

—MIGUEL ENGRG. (ret.), DPWH

HUNGRY FOR KNOWLEDGE
live curious NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

RADIO Inquirer's "Kumpadres": Chito dela Vega and Philip Matsumoto.

'Kumpadres' brings tomorrow's news

From page A1

Philip Matsumoto and business Libre editor in chief Chito dela Vega.

Matsumoto said "Kumpadres" would be "all about the news that you'll need and watch tomorrow in the newspaper and on television today."

"This will give the public a choice on what they would want to read in the Philippine Daily Inquirer the following day," Matsumoto said in Filipino.

He said the content of "Kumpadres" would therefore be largely based on reports from the Inquirer, Inquirer.net, and Business, a sister publication.

The radio program has interviewers with prosumbler reporting on tomorrow's news, as well as radio-beat roadtrip reports and other expert public service announcements—all in between light banter for listeners who are tapping their feet.

Matsumoto considers "Kumpadres" a "big challenge" for he and Dela Vega would be going against more established programs in the afternoon slot.

'Best shot'

Both Vega said he would give it his "best shot" at a first-time radio stunts. Still, he said, "I'm excited for this."

A "reluctant radio personality" was how Dela Vega described himself, having accepted the offer to host "Kumpadres" even though radio career was an exact to at the top of his plans.

But a cookie fan's not in the newspaper's daily grind: Dela Vega started out as a sports writer for the Manila Evening Post in 1984 before joining the business sports staff in 1986.

From 1997 to 1998, Dela Vega served as a desk editor in the business News Section. He later handled copy for business Libre starting in 2001 before becoming its editor in chief seven years ago.

Different world

Dela Vega said his long time in sports writing was proving to be an advantage in his new/second job in the booth.

"That's where I learned how to formulate questions and 'tactic' stories while still in my mind," he recalled. "Now, I can introduce those right away."

"It's a lot like that. There is adjusting to the requirements of radio because that is a different world," Matsumoto said of his journey.

"From purely writing, he is suddenly speaking into a microphone. But Chito has managed to adjust rather well. Matsumoto said, adding that he would not hesitate to share his 20 years of experience as a radioman with his coworker.

Inquirer mission

Through "Kumpadres," Matsumoto said, he and Dela Vega would carry out the Inquirer's mission to make famous sto—whether on the road home from work, jumping the dinner table, or simply tuning down their day—feel that they are part of a bigger society by giving them news and info matter to their mood.

"Kumpadres" airs on dzRJ Radyo Inquirer 990 right after "DZ: Target sa Balita."

Walkman, 31: Sony pulls plug on iconic casette player

From page A1

The Walkman is survived by the Discman (introducing to this and even music listeners who think using a Walkman in this day and age is a downright out-of-touch.

It will continue to be released in Japan and distributed in the United States, Europe and some Asian countries, too. Digital Walkmans are also coming made with models that display lyrics and have improved digital-music-converting technology.

210 million units sold

Still, if you're looking for a Walkman date in the Philippines tomorrow, that Oct. 25, 2010, is as good as any. For many, there's taken this long to completely. "They were still making those?" Perhaps Oct. 23, 2009, the day the iPod was launched, is the better date of execution.

But some of the success of Apple's portable music players could have been happened without the cassette Walkman. Some 220 million have been sold since the first model, the TPS-L2, debuted in July 1979, 10 months before IBM's first. Some later radios were portable, but there was nothing widely available like Walkman.

It was developed under the visionary title of Sony founders Akio Morita and Masaru Ibuka. Morita insisted the device not be focused on recording but playback, or relatively one-button at the time.

The July 1, 1979, refusal of the portable cassette player heaped most from Sony into a global success in a couple of years.

The Japanese giant sold 30,000 Walkmans in the first three months after its launch, and hit million-million a decade.

Immediate sensation

Some come up with the idea for the gadget on one of his overseas trips, during which he used to listen to tunes on midday tape recorders that were too heavy to be carried around easily portable.

Originally called the "Soundabout" in the United States, the Walkman was an immediate sensation and a revolution in music listening.

For almost it was portable. Music no longer needed to be something that one stayed home sitting in a room, but could be blasted on the run, grooved while jogging on a beach or played on the subway.

By having the volume up, any one could be heard out.

The detached teenager with boom-up phones described by the book used to belong his head in the elevator because an industrial danger. Other 1980s. (The first Walkman defiance in a single "bad line" bullies to learn the rock and no more the microphones they just could have someone talk to you.)

FLYING This is the first model of the "Walkman TPS-L2" shown at the Sony museum in Tokyo.

Nostalgia for Walkman

Music, previously listened to in or now with a big car-jerking and a stereo, was cued and by sound, making part of daily life. Pride Floyd could jam a rock in the part, Public Enemy could soundtrack a commute.

Music thus portability, it fostered a personal connection to music, a theme that's not only also highlighted in Sonos early dancing silhouette ads.

Long season there's an inadvertent tip for the Walkman today is because it's tremendously top analysis from music. It fell from appendage, retired as a package only some (with questionable fashion verdicts) dipped them by their belt.

Everyone's a romantic

But Walkman was also the father of the outlaws are offspring that nearly trumps the progeny. For the first time, music was something you could invade yours by arranging it and swapping it.

For those young and unfamiliar with this process, making a mixtape typically entailed gathering songs by the Cure and Depeche Mode, labeling the tape at 60 cent and meticulously giving it to a love interest.

The Walkman didn't disappear so much as it was overrun with music. Sony continues to use it as a lure and to tell the company-long-ago-indeed tapeness and style to Apple. The iPod will likely one day befall a similar fate, and another gen- ation will gasp in bewilderment. When it comes to music and how we hear it, we're all consumers.

Reporters from AP and AFP

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bautista
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Anda, Bolinao residents woe aquaculture mess

By Yolanda Ixtuiz
Bolinao Correspondent

JUST MONTHS after a massive fish kill hit Anda and Bolinao in Pangasinan in June, it's back to business-as-usual in the towns' aquaculture areas.

Some 6,000 hectares of coastal reefs and sea pasture in Bolinao serve as "womb" of the Lingayen Gulf or spawning ground of different fish and shellfish species.

But this natural ebb is giving way to artificial fish breeding through hundreds of fishpens and cages, producing 50,000 to 60,000 tons of "bangus" (milkfish) or roughly 35 percent of Pangasinan's aquaculture production.

Residents are complaining about the environmental degradation, but Nestor Domenden, regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), said, "the reason do away with the towns' aquaculture [industry] because the current depends on its production."

The industry started in the late 1980s after Bolinao's vicinity against the establishment of a nuclear plant that environmentalists had said would destroy the fishing grounds.

But fish pen and cage operators found the sea ideal for fish culture. Soon, aquaculture operations flourished and stayed unregulated.

In February 2002, a massive fish kill devastated the industry with losses estimated at P400 million. Similar occurrences continued in the following years.

Local governments, with the help of the BFAR and the University of the Philippines Visayas Aquaculture Department, came up with an aquaculture management system to prevent fish kill. The guidelines included stocking density, the number of allowable fish pens and cages, and feeding protocols.

Management system

"The management system worked because for years, there was no fish kill. But natural disaster knows no bounds," Domenden said. He explained that the system was beneficial, but Margaret Celeste, an environmental advocate, ...

Fishery structure owners were supposed to post a performance bond of P5,000, from which penalties for environmental law violations would be deducted, but this was not implemented, said Bramzon Castronio, municipal planning and development officer.

A municipal fishery code, ... with operators to pay P2 for every sack of feed used, but this provision was removed by the municipal council. The fee would have gone to environmental protection projects.

The people's indifference to... their environment may have caused nature to fight back.

Fishery structure operators point at the "blind" or steep fish culture low tide meets high tide, ... on the lowest level of high tide) when dissolved oxygen level ... be lowest levels as possible ... cause of the "pasture" where cultured fish swim into the water ... and jump for air.

"But now tides, rains and weather changes have been early or late again," Celeste said. "If the aquaculture operators learn to cooperate with nature, disasters could be prevented and the environment would ... be gathered."

According to Dr. Wendy Bacosa, BFAR Dagupan research center chief, the bed of the Kalaguiman Channel is thick with organic materials, mostly uneaten fish feed and other wastes.

"The rich organic matter causes algal bloom where the conditions are right, but when the dissolved oxygen level dropped, both the fish and the algae die. It is the death of the algae that causes the red tide," Bacosa said.

Overfeeding

Wrong feeding practices, such as overfeeding, result in wasted feed that eventually disintegrates and settles on the seabed, said Anadelfo Ribarra of Bolinao's coastal resources management.

Some cages have no space between the nets and the sea bed, so some can no longer pass below, said Modesto Abesamis, a pioneer operator.

Water flow at the Kalaguiman Channel is obstructed by fish cages and pens, Abesamis said.

That Bolinao and Anda share the same sea space exacerbates the problem. When a local government conducts a crackdown, operators merely sow their cages toward the other town.

With such a situation, Celeste said, "local governments cannot be the ones in charge of the fishery leadership, which has become transregional." She said, "a bigger, higher body" should oversee the industry and strictly implement the fishery laws.

But Domenden said the BFAR could not do it because it had no direct control over the aquaculture operations. The agency's role "is merely recommendatory. It is the local government which has jurisdiction over the leadership," he said.

During a recent meeting with Bolinao Mayor Idelwise Celeste and Anda Mayor Aldrin Cosico, industry players blamed the local government and the BFAR for not warning them about the poor water quality before the fish kill.

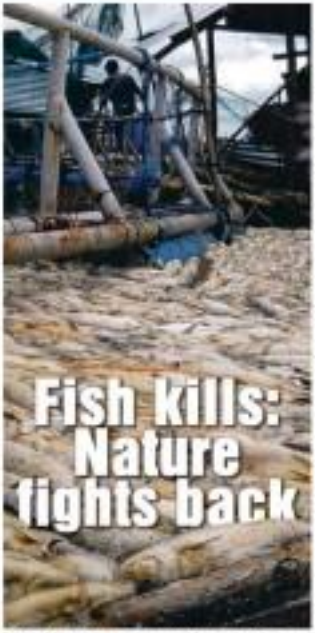
Domenden said his office had not been remiss in reminding local governments about the poor water conditions through advisories. Bolinao residents in... water quality testing and advises the operators or caretakers about its results, Quintanilla said.

"The local government spends much for salary and compensation of personnel who go around warning the fishers' operators. They earn millions of pesos from the industry, but they aren't even establish their own water testing facility and do the testing themselves," Cuntanilla said.

Fish kills can threaten millions of pesos, but the toll on marine environmental degradation is never taken into account, Celeste said.

Residents have had enough of the environmental pollution caused by the aquaculture industry and are pressing for a moratorium, until after the ecosystem has been restored and a sustainable plan has been put in place.

"Bolinao is important to the fishery sector and has made some residents rich, but aquaculture is benefiting only a handful of investors while it is destroying the town's ecosystem," Celeste said.



"BANGUS" (milkfish) were belly-up near a fish cage along the Kalaguiman Channel separating the towns of Bolinao and Anda (seen in Pangasinan in this photo taken in June). YOLANDA IXTUIZ

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Assistant Editor Tony Burgonio

Across the NATION

100 militiamen sacked over poll roles

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military yesterday said it terminated the services of nearly 100 militiamen in Western Mindanao and some areas of the Luzon provinces after they participated in village and youth elections either as candidates or supporters of candidates.

Maj. Gen. Ruben Lantoria, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said what made the officials swipe was that the militiamen took part in the elections without informing their commanders.

He said more militiamen face the same fate as the figure he got was just tabled. An investigation is continuing to determine how many more militiamen violated military neutrality by taking part in the elections.

"There are tabled figures and we are continuing our assessment and verification of other members that may have filed their certificates of candidacy without prior notice to our headquarters," he said.

Lantoria said several militiamen were also re-assigned to other villages because they have relatives running in the elections.

"We have re-assigned them to other areas so as not to influence the elections. Even if she is just a barangay election, we want to achieve a credible outcome," he said.

Lantoria said militiamen, like regular soldiers, shouldn't be directly involved in any political or electoral exercise while on active duty because they may run into conflict of interest situations when they are called upon to help secure election sites.

Military involvement in elections would put a cloud of doubt over the exercise's credibility, said the general.

Lantoria, however, said deploying militiamen for election duty is only a brief increase of the military that is taken to the absence or discharge of regular soldiers.

He said the military was prohibited from joining regular combat operations with soldiers.

"We are following what the Commission on Elections has prescribed," said Lantoria. "The use of Cafgus will be our last recourse. Only in case there was a serious security problem," he said.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo had recommended the postponement of the barangay elections in three coastal towns in Eastern Samar that were devastated by Typhoon Juan."

He recommendation was approved by the Comelec.

Police were keeping a close watch on hundreds of villages where elections had been predicted to be violent.

Some of the areas were in the hotbed of so-called rebel-inclusive where communist guerrillas are active.

Calls to postpone the elections were not heeded. Jude S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao with Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

A SOLDIER mans an armored personnel carrier (APC) during exposition-military preparations for the barangay elections. JOAN MARIE MADRIDEJOS

2 men charged with Matalam bus bombing; 2 others free

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Two of four suspects arrested in connection with last week's bombing of a bus in Matalam, North Cotabato have been charged.

The explosion last week that hit the bus and left 19 persons dead and scores of others wounded.

The two other suspects were released on border observation.

A complaint of multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder was filed at the provincial prosecutor's office here on Tuesday.

Amalo Imp, Joyce Sheny spokesperson for the North Cotabato Provincial Police Office, identified those who remain in police custody only as Taweo and Sunag.

Families of two men who are being kept at the Arnan Provincial Jail in North Cotabato—Nasrij Alabaro Sunad and Ibrahim Mlama—said police got the wrong guys.

Sheny said a 15-year old boy who claimed he was the one who placed the bomb aboard a Rural Transit bus, was spared from the charges and would become a state witness.

Contrary to earlier reports, Sheny said the suspect-turned-witness was not arrested but surrendered a day after the bombing.

The boy was quoted as telling police his conscience was bothering him.

Supt. Alex Tagum, head of the police special investigation team, launched operations against the suspects on Friday and arrested Sunad, Alhasan and brothers Abdul and Nasser Tolasoh in Cotabato City.

Lawyer Jun Mabog, of the Mindanao Human Rights Action Center (MHRAC), said the suspects were arrested without warrants.

Mabog said during interrogation, the Tolasohs were asked who among them were Towin Ohama and Sunag Ohama, who the 15-year old witness claimed were the ones who paid him to place the bomb in the bus.

Mabog said the Tolasohs were released upon prodding of MHRAC lawyers.

He said authorities denied his group access to Sunad and Alhasan.

Lorot Government Secretary Jesse Robredo is scheduled to visit North Cotabato today to meet with new local government, police and military officials and announce the filing of charges. Carlos G. Agnecio and Perth B. Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao

Alarm bells ring on coal shipments from Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—Environment officials have expressed alarm over thousands of sacks of charcoal tied are shipped every month out of Oriental Mindoro to Metro Manila.

Pablo Trinitio, chief of the forest management services of the provincial environment office here, said last month alone, at least 74,980 sacks of charcoal were shipped out of the province.

"The figures are fluctuating, depending on when people are more in need of money," he said.

Trinitio said that last June, 108,380 sacks of charcoal were shipped out. He said the spike in numbers could be because people needed money then for the opening of classes.

In May, 43,000 sacks of charcoal left the province; July, 76,000 sacks and August, 39,758 sacks.

December spike

Trinitio said he expects the numbers to spike again in December.

Arthur Sevas, Oriental Mindoro environment and natural resources officer, had expressed worry about the effects of charcoal production on the environment.

"Charcoal production causes greenhouse effect," Sevas said.

High concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere block heat from leaving earth, causing global warming and the so-called greenhouse effect.

Sevas said fifteen Manila is the main market of charcoal from the province.

Some have blamed Mangyans for rainforest charcoal production but Sevas said even lowland people were going.

He said he did a study on charcoal production and found that at least five percent of charcoal produced in the province come from what he said were good trees.

Unavoidable!

"The demand for wood (as fuel) is unavoidable with the increasing price of fuel," he said.

Sevas said the government needed to provide an alternative livelihood for the charcoal makers.

Seven government people were behind for nobody but he refused to name names.

Felix Baroda, Calapan port manager, said the port could serve as a last defense against the wanton destruction of forest resources for charcoal production.

The recommendation group follows a ban on charcoal production in the province.

The ban was imposed in 2008 by then governor Rodolfo Valencia after the province was hit by massive flooding.

Trinitio said the ban was lifted in 2009 by Governor Alfonso Umali Jr. Mindoro now has only 30,000 hectares of forest cover left. Mindoro P. Rivera, Inquirer Southern Luzon

DAVIDS AND GOLIATHS In the daily battle for the bounty of the sea, small fishermen and their boats are no match for the mighty fleet of commercial fishing vessels that regularly drop anchor at the Dalahican Port in Lucena City.

Rice not enough to lure cocaine surrender

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—How do you convince someone in possession of a P8 million brick of cocaine to turn this over to authorities?

Anti-narcotics agents are grappling for answers to this question as they continued to search for bricks of cocaine that were part of a shipment of an estimated 1.1 ton of the drug tossed overboard from a passing ship in Samar.

Chief Clarence Oranmol, police chief of the Dulag-Mahaplag-Julita-Barugo police district, said authorities were studying plans to offer livelihood opportunities to fishermen or villagers who may have found the cocaine bricks and are still keeping them.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) so far recovered a total of 535 bricks of cocaine with each brick weighing a kilo. No more bricks have been recovered since.

Oranmol said the coastal system currently in place may not be intensive enough.

Authorities currently offer a cash reward P1,000 in cash for people who would turn over their cocaine find. A block of cocaine is estimated to be worth at least P8 million.

Oranmol said intelligence reports indicate that many more bricks of cocaine float the dumped shipment are still out there.

The possibility of life in jail has also failed to convince cocaine finders to surrender the drug, he said.

The PDEA in Eastern Visayas so far charged 16 people for selling or possession of the drug.

Debate rages over who should own Baguio's main park

BAGUIO CITY—It took two years for the tussles capital to own Burnham Park in time for the city's centennial in 2009.

But the new set of Baguio officials has started the process of returning the 100-year-old park to the national government.

Saying the city government could not afford to pay for the park's upkeep, Baguio Rep. Bernardo Vergara said he has filed a measure that "nationalized" Burnham Park to form a bigger budget to improve the facility designed in the early 1900s by American architect Daniel Burnham.

The person requires the city government to relinquish control of the park, a move that has drawn strong reactions from conservationists and former officials.

Former Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said it took lengthy negotiations to convince the administration of late President Elpidio Quirino to grant Baguio the ownership of the park.

All Philippine parks were placed under the custody of the Philippine Tourism Authority in 1981, but former President Fidel Ramos allowed the Baguio government's administrative control over Burnham Park in 1995.

House Bill No. 1515 was one of the measures Vergara discussed in a speech he delivered before city officials about his first 100 days in office.

Vergara, former Baguio mayor, said similar measures were filed in the past to rehabilitate the city government of the need to raise P10 million yearly to put park employees, maintain the park's landscape and modernize the tourist spot that draws thousands of visitors each year.

The park was designed as the centerpiece of Burnham's "City Beautiful" landscape, when he laid down his vision of Baguio for the colonial American government in 1905.

BAGUIO'S MAIN PARK continues to draw tourists amid a raging debate on who should own it.

Vergara cited this argument to legislate the park's ownership into a national preserve, similar to Rizal Park in Manila, when he filed House Bill No. 1761 in the 10th Congress, according to a statement released by his office.

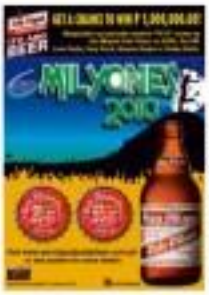
His successor, incumbent Mayor Mauricio Domogan, refiled the measure as HB No. 207 in the 14th Congress, HB No. 3081 in the 15th Congress and HB No. 3081 in the 16th Congress, making Burnham Park's status in a continual park.

Reuters said he would support his opposition to the bill, calling it class legislation.

A Burnham Park master plan was drawn up by the University of the Cordilleras. It was commissioned by Reuters in 2008, the end of his term. Rio Gonzales, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

SPORTS



RP booters nail Suzuki stint with draw

By Cedelf P. Tapas

VIENTIANE, Laos—Mission accomplished.

The Philippines nailed one of the two qualifying slots to the Suzuki Cup Asean Football Championship, after holding Cambodia to a scoreless draw last night at the National Stadium.

The Filipinos failed to impose themselves on attack, but survived with their resolute defense anchored by central defenders Aly Borromeo, Neb Gier and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge.

"It's very rewarding that the program we started has achieved its target," said team manager Ian Palami.

"We know it was going to be hard, but the players worked very hard to get to this level."

The Filipinos entered out on a spot in the semis unexpected two years ago, after losing on goal difference to Cambodia.

The RP booters finished with five points, after a 3-0 win over Timor Leste and both to look drawn to Laos and Cambodia.

Cambodia's qualification hopes were one on the result of the Laos-Timor Leste match, which was being played as of presstime.

Ian Araneta, Phil Younghusband and Borromeo all came close to breaking the deadlock in the second half.

Araneta sent his close-range effort straight to Cambodian keeper, Oue Mu, in the 68th minute. Younghusband had his right-footed shot in injury time, well-saved, and Borromeo headed a free header off James Younghusband's corner.

But Cambodia looked the more dangerous side, with its field play at the flanks.

Etheridge, who plays club football for English Premiere League side Fulham, was in his best, quashing some after wave of attacks with timely saves.

Borromeo also proved instrumental, combining with Gier to win headers and making timely tackles.

PHIL. Younghusband dribbles past Khanh of Cambodia

Sizzling-hot twinbill today

Three teams dispute PBA lead

By Mhaveg B. Castillo

TEAMS #1 (the upper half of the standings) see action today with San Miguel Beer and Alaska clinging at least a share of the lead in the PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

San Miguel and Alaska, both sitting 3 wins, 1 loss records, collide at 7:30 p.m., following the 5 p.m. opener pitting ex-leader Talk 'N Text against Sweetcals.

A victory by the Tropang Texters, also 4-1, will temporarily push them at the helm, where they will be joined later by the winner of the San Miguel-Alaska tussle.

A loss for Talk 'N Text, meanwhile, will give either San Miguel or Alaska the sole lead.

The Beermen will enter the game against the Texters hoping to extend a two-game winning streak, with the team seeking to bounce back from a surprise loss to ALCO last week that snapped a three-game run.

Powerade, meanwhile, will be looking to collect a second straight loss on the Texters, who suffered a 93-85 tripping at the hands of the ailing Rain or Shine Elasto Painters.

Actually, that loss is what makes the Texters even more dangerous as they're determined to recover their once-cheny form.

Signe-four Talk 'N Text's game was slowing cause in an outing against sister squad Meralco, where the Texters blew a huge lead and needed to struggle in the endgame before prevailing.

Coach Chot Reyes described that game as "very, very stupid" for his wards, who couldn't stop Solomon Mercado in the final 1.5 seconds from making the game-winning jumper.

BP forward Cassandra Ticenco puts up a shot off Mei Chyn Wong of Malaysia in yesterday's game at the Moay Aquino Stadium. WIRE ACCESS

Lakers open defense of NBA crown

IT'S A SHOW would them days and the rest of us are just living in it. But, by the way, another season has seen back to back titles and is coming off a satisfying off season of his own.

This is no criminal treatment even by the considerable standards of Lakers strangeness, with the best team by the league two seasons in a row headed for the three-peat quest even if no one is noticing them like before.

The NBA season rumors off the tongs for the Lakers on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) against their Staples brothers and the outcomes will count, not the perception.

"I think there will be maybe times during the season where [the Heat are] the toast of the town and everything is focused on them and people won't be talking much about us, and that's fine," said guard Derek Fisher.

"But with Phil [Jackson]'s experience and myself and Kobe [Bryant]... with that type of maturity, there's really not much concern about when other people are doing."

This last-key hit may take getting used to, but think if it works. Think of what the Lakers could do with all the extra energy that used to go to fixing the soap-opera existence.

"People know where we're at," Anderson said. Of course.

They're the Lakers, still. NBA.com

Nationals overwhelm Malaysians, clinch finals vs Thais

By Jose Navarro

BACOLOD PEDIAL ng Pilipinas outhidded Malaysia's height advantage with a burst of three-pointers to prevail, 70-50, yesterday and book a ticket to the finals of the 7th Southeast Asian Basketball Association Women's Championship at the Moy Aquino Stadium.

Melissa Jacob opened the decisive fourth period with three consecutive triples and Mercedes Arayi followed it up with another three in the RP reginellers built a double-digit lead and were never threatened the rest of the way.

Camy Tacuroi's barreling move inside the lane with six minutes gave the Filipinas their biggest lead, 54-34.

The victory sealed the RP's title showdown tomorrow with unbeaten Thailand.

"Those three-pointers snuffed their confidence," said RP varsity coach Hayden Ong.

But it was Ong's defensive plan in the second half that helped them snatch the win over the Malaysians, who had a gigantic breakfast of Khoo Ai Cheng Siw Yap, 6-3 Rahimawati Nighahim and 6-2 Siew Lee.

"Our defense keyed the win for us," Ong added. "I told them the need to defend, and they responded well."

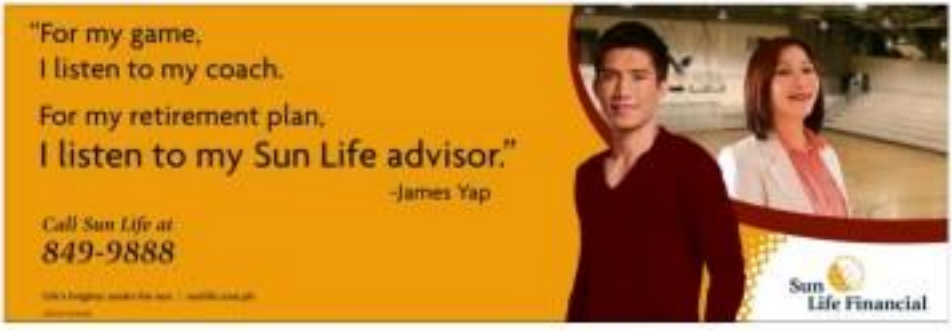
Chan-ethel Isidro sowing erupted for 29 points and Jedeamon Amoldan added 22 as Thailand demolished Indonesia, 110-56, in the other game for its second straight win.

The defending champion Thais sizzled for 39 points in the first period and never looked back in sending the Indonesians to their second defeat in three games.

"We still slow down (Thais) say, so we will come in prepared," said Ong.

The team sponsored by Discovery Primacrafted Singapore on opening day.

The Nationals defeated the Thais during the 2007 tournament's elimination round held in Phuket, but has the championship to die from.



Unigames: Eagles, Tams lead Metro cage binge

STERIO AND the Ramon University showed Metro Manila's undisputed might in basketball yesterday in the 2010 Philippine Sports Commission University Games in Bacnotan, La Union.

The Blue Eagles, who recently stopped their third straight UAAP championship, forked off their title defense with back-to-back coats over the University of Northern Philippines, 89-60, and Mindanao State University-Marawi, 93-42, to share the way in Group A.

The Tamaraws, the leading UAAP finalist, also romped unbeaten in new Group B games after blasting Lyceum, 91-75, and Bicol University State University, 109-39.

Adamson and Rizal Technological University paced Group C with the Falcons trouncing former de Dasas, 88-67, and the Blue Thrashers downing Asian College of Science and Technology 95-64.

National University routed Holy Cross Davao, 98-49, while University of San Carlos crushed Holy Angel University, 84-68, in Group D.

In women's action, defending champion Adamson opened its bid with a 68-34 triumph over Lyceum.

University of the Philippines also got off to a strong start with victories over Silliman University, 74-31, and St. Louis University, 77-44.

But the highly regarded Maroons squads made sure they claimed spots in football, with Pilar Negros University opening its side emotion bid in the men's side by edging University of Negros Occidental 1-0 in Group B.

UP Diliman upended Silliman, 4-2, in Group A and University of St. La Salle of Bacolod whipped University of Southern Philippines, 28-0, in Group C.

Competitors also fired off in badminton, dress, karate tennis, squash, taekwondo, basketball, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, beach volleyball and archery. —Jasmine B. Payo

AUSTRIAN boxer and former World No. 1 Jasmine Duchateau makes her shot against Filipina Mildred Alvarez at Robinson's Galleria.

Amit clinches Last-24 berth

Kim, Ouschan win; Fisher falls

By Mueng B. Castillo

RUSSIAN AMIT has just one task to face matches against compatriots yesterday and moved closer to topping her group in the classification phase of the Palm Women's World 10-Ball championship at the Store City in Lilo, Quezon City.

The 20-year-old defending champion, a 10th Sweetwater graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, whipped Ann Tolosan and Angel Anolin for her third straight win to move within two more of sweeping Group 1.

Amit dropped that only rack in her midday match with Tolosan, a 22-year-old mother who has been playing billiards for only three years, when she jumped the rack ball off the table in breaking the second rack and Tolosan made a bounced 2-16 combo.

Amit played a lot sharper than she did to a 6-3 win over Angel Paglio of the United States in the start of the tournament on Monday.

"I had many lapses yesterday [Monday against Paglio] because of nervousness," the pint-sized Amit told the beacons.

On winning Kim, the Korean former world 9-ball champion, bested Jade Kelly of the United States, 6-3, to also stay unmatched in Group 4.

Kim used the jump shot to great effect and won three of the first four racks against Kelly.

Korean World No. 3 Jasmine Ouschan of Austria blanked Filipino Mildred Alvarez, 6-0, also for her third straight win in Group B.

Three players from each of the eight groups will advance to the Round-of-24.

Reigning World No. 1 Allison Fisher of Britain, meanwhile, was the victim of the tournament's first true upset, bowing 4-6 to Chinese Dou Hualian, for a 1-1 record.

Over at the Robinson's Galleria in Ortigas, Filipino-American Jhanelle Lorraine shellacked one with her chief straight defeat, this time at the hands of the Netherlands' Simone Hoekenboos, 2-5.

Another knocked Filipino, Iris Ranola, fell to 1-2 after losing to Spain's Amalia Maza, 4-6.

PSC limits Asiad funding to 284 delegates

By Jane Meneses

(IT'S FINAL

The Philippine Sports Commission will only fund the participation of 284 athletes, coaches, managers and key personnel to the Guangzhou Asian Games next month.

No ifs and buts.

Moying Martelino, a member of the Philippine Olympic Committee's Asiad screening panel, said yesterday that anyone not on the master list "will have to pay for themselves."

According to Martelino, 191 athletes, 33 coaches and 16 team managers comprise the main bulk of the delegation.

Also part of the 284-strong contingent are 10 chefs de mission Joey Romasanta, deputy chefs Chippy Espiritu, 12 medical officers and 10 administrative staffers.

Martelino said the slashes and billeting of POC presidents Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., their Monica Puyat-Jocelyn and secretary general Steve Hontiveros will be shouldered by the Olympic Council of Asia.

The OCA will also fly technical officials from various sports to Guangzhou.

Martelino also said the applications for accreditation of chess Grandmaster Joey Antonio and seven shooters are still pending.

"As of last week, there was no confirmation yet on their application," Martelino said.

Romasanta said Saturday that the discredited dragonboat squads would appeal their inclusion in the Asiad contingent to the POC executive board.

Martelino said he and 16 other administrative personnel will leave on Nov. 7 to attend the delegation registration meeting, the following day and arrange the various assignments of the contingent.

He said the main course of 150 athletes and coaches will arrive in Guangzhou's Athletes' Village on Nov. 10.

Kenyans rule Mayon run

By Joanna P. Lee Bates
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—A 1-2-3 sweep in the men's division highlighted the Kenyans' domination of the 23 Albayarine Mayon Trail Run International held here Sunday as part of the city's month-long Budalag Festival.

Philip Kimeli clocked 1 hour and 37 seconds to snatch his first international title after a tightly fought race that saw the top four runners finishing within seconds of each other.

William Kipyego followed Kimeli home in 1:38, with Anthony Kogei third in 1:40.

Top Filipino bet Cereneonor Salud was fourth in 1:41.

In the female category, another Kenyan, 18-year-old Lucy Kabuu, edged Kipchumba Yael from start to finish to prevail in 2:12.

Kimeli, 24, who started running to compete locally in 2007, said winning a race in Kenya, a country of a million runners, is very difficult.

"There are thousands of Kenyan runners who compete in different tournaments," he said.

The 21-km race cost one of the world's most grueling and toughest trails drew more than 2200 runners, including entries from the United States, Italy and Spain.

The field negotiated three mountain trails with panoramic views of Legazpi City and Mayon Golf, went through a tunnel, crossed a river, and climbed a few steep lava trail.

Salud said the Mayon race was extremely tough only of "have to survive the challenge."

The competing field was fired off at 6 a.m. in the city's Peñaranda Park.

Vicente Garcia, 73, of Los Baños, Laguna, was the most senior participant of the race organized by the Junior Chamber International Legazpi Chapter, MVR project chair Vince Gil Ye and city councilor Cecilia Clemente.

Legazpi City administrator Noel Rosal said the MVR was a way to promote the city.

Race sponsors included the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bandera, The North Face, 100 Plus and AMA Computer College in Legazpi.

LADIES ON CLOUD NINE

Toyota Alphlands Ladies Chapter president Dionne Cu is congratulated by Hilda Jacinto and Inquirer Group Publisher Sheila Ramos, president of CARS Motors, marketer distributor of Mercedes-Benz, after Toyota's Alphlands' championship margin in the recent WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines) Circuit. Also in photo are (from left) Gene Wong and Rosalina Vifer of Toyota Alphlands and Erika Arcilla of CARS Motors.

Baguio stint worst camp we've had, says Roach

By Ray Leaño

CELEBRATED trainer Freddie Roach can now pocket his weary heads.

After leading an astonishing training camp in the Philippines, Roach and protégé Emanuel Rig Manny Pacquiao received in the familiar confines of Wild Card Gym in Hollywood Saturday night.

The four-time Trainer of the Year said his primed vessel was more focused with his bulldog Monday, three weeks ahead of his Nov. 13 showdown with Antonio Margarito.

Quoting Roach, MID-CITY's Ryan Cacilles posted on Twitter yesterday, "He's Pacquiao earlier today."

Pacquiao will train for two weeks at Wild Card before heading for Texas to hustle Margarito for the vacant WBC super welterweight title at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

On Tuesday, Roach praised cast his sentiments to Mandaluyong.com.ph News Hits.

"The thing is, there were just too many distractions," said Roach. "So really, we didn't have a bad training camp; Pacquiao just wasn't very consistent. Every Sunday driving to Manila, a one-hour drive each way, it's draining on the fighter. Overall, I think it's the worst training camp we ever had, yes."

SPORTSWATCH

Three-cornered fight in 'Muray' San Juan derby

A THREE-CORNERED battle among rookies Jesse Lapaza, Ramon Antonio Manila, Jr. gets going in the Muray 4-Stag Derby today at the San Juan Coliseum.

At least 8 knights are lined up in the P400,000 guaranteed prize event hosted by Laguna de Bahia Mary Dolores, a veteran of big Guimaras international derbies.

Meanwhile, the Cyberbench 4-Stag Derby is slated Saturday. Call 7266888.

PCAP finals under way

AT LEAST 10 fights are on tap when the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines holds its final 6-stag derby today at the Makati Coliseum in Makati City.

Among the strong contenders for the PCAP Showdown are Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's Asian Green, JCBP Kawayan and Team Kababayan.

Eleven other from Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and the EDM group round out the entries.

By TOP CHOICE
At Santa Ana Park

Salomon X-Trail 'not your typical race'

ADVENTURE RACERS say to compare the Five Salomon X-Trail Run Philippines and Mountain Thirty on Nov. 13 at the Pamulaklakin Forest Reserve in Baras, Rizal to a "typical" race.

The unique event features 12K and 24K races in both the men's and women's divisions.

"This is not your typical run," Salomon brand manager Ryan Gaerlan said during the PSA forum yesterday at Shakey's UP Avenue.

"The many features natural obstacles like ditches, caverns, trees, rough terrain and other hurdles that you won't find in regular races."

Each racer must be aware of the natural race, a growing sport that draws almost five million racers in the US.

"What's in store for the runners will be an adventure race like no other," Gaerlan added to the weekly seminar presented by Global Running Pagoo and Shakey's.

Running courses are R.O.C. (International Outdoor Challenge) at Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City Ayala Center Cebu, selected Bus/Tru/Van stores (Toyota, Robinson's Galleria, Alabang TCC) and Titan Depot outlets.

For more information on the race, visit the Salomon Philippines Facebook page. —J.M. Payo

Sometimes, it's difficult to read Pacquiao

FOR ALL the arresting confidence on the outside, we could sense a deep concern among the members of Team Pacquiao over his condition, less than three weeks before he takes on the much bigger, taller and stronger Antonio Margarito.

His final day of sparring was marked by a relentlessly large turnout at the Johnny Hosts gym in Quezon City. There, even the bothering interventions of welterweight Mikey Bernardo about the cured by silence, and the last on the case of cellphones and video of any kind were quickly floated.

Manny looked good only in two flashes of brilliance, once against Amir Khan and once against Michael Medina.

But if he scored the first round he opened with Amir he has shown and quickly shied out one. A flurry in the final 30 seconds of round three seemed to rock Amir, who later said Pacquiao didn't hurt him.

In fact, Khan had Pacquiao in some trouble against the ropes on more than one occasion when they tested big shots, and trainer Freddie Roach himself said that Khan hit Manny off the board.

There was visibly no fire in Pacquiao.

INSIDE SPORTS

Ronnie Nathanielsz

He looked tired and listless, and even his sometimes fierce but often smiling eyes seemed to be somnolent.

Man, a fighter who possesses perhaps the fastest hands, was faster than Manny who is also known for his speed.

Manny also laid on the ropes, which Roach said wasn't in the gameplan, and took his customary body shots.

Sometimes, of course, it's difficult to read the signs.

Was he doing it deliberately as test his ability to take what will surely be the big shots of Margarito, who is expected to outsize the dog at least 15 pounds heavier than Manny?

Was he relying on shots like Amir threw from the body of the head?

Or was that Pacquiao was playing around a little too much.

Conditioning expert Alex Ariza tried to synchronize our concerns by saying two weeks in a long time. If Pacquiao does what he is supposed to do, he said, then he'll be alright on fight night.

* * *

There was certainly he was supposed to do while he was here.

But he didn't, this is more discomforting.

There included playing basketball regularly and driving down from Baguio to Manila and back again to see executive Bandaya for events he could have missed and which the organizers would have—or should have—understood.

His occasional visits to Congress, despite Speaker Nancy Binhonan's decision to allow Manny to concentrate on training, and his Mahanlang meetings with President Aquino and executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. could have been done at some other time, as Roach points out, not on his training day.

The Michael Buffer wrestling and his amazing performance also irritated Roach, to say the least—but we digress.

In fairness to Manny though, when advised to leave at 11 p.m. and get some rest, he did.

After a long flight in Los Angeles last Saturday instead of resting on Sunday after hearing Mass, Pacquiao took a run, and a half hour drive to San Diego to coach his raging basketball team.

* * *

We share the concerns of many fans about Pacquiao is someone truly special. His incredible achievements have inspired us a nation and its people who have endeared him as a national hero.

At Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said, he cannot, in his mind, conceive of Pacquiao losing. But he didn't discount the possibility.

We ourselves wish to banish the thought, but are forced to face up to the reality given what we have seen over the past few weeks.

We fervently hope it would go away like a bad dream and that in the end Manny Pacquiao—as he has done so many times in the past—will overcome the odds, face the challenge and triumph.

That would be a moment devoutly to be wished.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Comelec: 40,000 failed to vote in village, SK polls in Metro

By DJ Yap

CLOSE to 40,000 out of the more than six million registered voters in Metro Manila failed to participate in Monday's barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections as a result of double registration, the head of the Commission on Elections-National Capital Region (Comelec-NCR) office said yesterday.

According to Michael Dioneda, the Comelec determines cases of double registration—which may either be intentional or inadvertent—through its computer database of fingerprints. "This is the reason so many people's names were missing from the voters' lists," he told the Inquirer.

Dioneda said double registration could occur when a voter who had moved to another city enlisted again as a new voter instead of merely applying for a change of address.

In that case, he said the person's last registration would be removed from the record and the new one would be valid. But if a voter registered a second time in the same city, the second registration would be invalidated, Dioneda said.

In the case of the 40,000 or so voters, they failed to vote because they went to the polling precinct where their registration had been invalidated.

The old measure, Dioneda added, would have been to consult the "book of voters," a master list of the names of registered voters nationwide.

He explained, however, that due to former Sen. Manuel Roxas II's electoral protest against Vice President Jejomar Binay, the Presidential Electoral Tribunal had barred the Comelec access to the book of voters in the 2010 presidential elections.

The implication of this order was that the Comelec could not afford voters the final remedy of searching for their names in the book of voters if their names were missing from the printed computerized voters lists or the election day computerized voters lists.

Dioneda, meanwhile, reported a 60 percent turnout in the barangay elections and a 78 to 80 percent turnout in the SK polls.

CONTINUED | A22

South Metro cops, MMDA crew ready for All Souls' Day

By Tina G. Santos

THE SOUTHERN Police District (SPD) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) have assured the public that security measures are already in place for a hassle-free commemoration of All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day.

SPD district director, Chief Supt. Jose Rizalino de los Santos, said part of the SPD's preparations include the deployment of additional police officers who will monitor all bus stations, commercial centers and some segments of the Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit systems located in areas of jurisdiction.

There will also be increased police visibility in the areas to deter criminals who might take advantage of the occasion when most people are either out of their homes or in the provinces to visit the graves of their departed loved ones.

Police are also intensifying their round-the-clock foot and mobile patrols in the southern part of metropolis.

The SPD will deploy 998 police officers, regardless if with 21 mobile patrol and three ambulances, to all major cemeteries in the cities of Parañaque, Makati, Pasay and Taguig to prevent persons carrying liquor, bladed weapons, illegal drugs and other prohibited items from entering these areas.

Meanwhile, the MMDA will send out 1,600 traffic personnel for its different cemeteries, bus terminals and major roads with special traffic rerouting plans in the metropolis as part of its "Oplan Undas 2010" program to ensure the orderly movements of commuters and pedestrians.

Experts fail to find leaking fuel tank beside condo

By Tina G. Santos

EXPERTS were not able to find any leaked fuel tank or metallic object which could be the possible source of the oil leak that has been seeping into the basement of Metro Tower condominium in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City, for the past three months now.

Geologists and hydrologists from the University of the Philippines, part of the task force that has been conducting a probe to determine the source of the leak, released the result of their findings after drilling three exploratory holes beside the 32-story condominium over the weekend.

One of the holes had a depth of 14 meters, deeper than the 2-meter depth projection of the suspected fuel tank, "and no leaked tank was encountered," the report said. In two of the holes, the drilling bit actually struck the third hit concrete.

"This means we can rule out a fuel tank as the source of the continuing petroleum leak," the report added.

A ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey commissioned by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation (PSPC), operator of the country's largest commercial pipeline that runs along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) Highway, had suggested the existence of a "unreported fuel tank" beside Metro Towers.

Experts earlier expressed skepticism over this report, saying that no tank can accommodate the over 200,000 liters of diesel, gasoline, kerosene and aviation fuel that have, to date, been recovered from the basement of the condominium.

Dr. Carlo Arcilla, director of IPSWEB, said the leak could have possibly originated from a pipeline.

"The volume of substance collected from the basement—which is already equivalent to over three oil tankers—cannot be any ordinary underground storage tank could contain. Instead, the fact that the product was recovered from the basement of the condominium complex through different boreholes, which mimics what happens inside a pipeline, it's more likely that the source of the leak is a pipeline," he said in a previous press briefing.

The task force team is presently drilling and processing over 20 exploratory wells close to the PPC pipeline.

Comelec: 40,000 failed to vote in village

. . . From page A12

He explained, however, that this was a ballpark estimate based on observations and reports from the ground since the official figures had yet to come in.

According to him, the OK election had a higher turnout because those who registered "had every intention of casting their vote" despite the smaller turnout registered.

He added that the conduct of barangay polls in all seven in Metro Manila had finished on time with the exception of Old Balara in Quezon City where the SK election had to be postponed because the ballots had not been delivered. No clear had been set for the special election.

According to Dumalin, the proclamation of winners in all barangays would likely be finished today or tomorrow in the largest barangays in cities like Caloocan and Muntinlupa. But for average-sized barangays, he said the winners could be proclaimed by last night at the latest.

Six arrested

In Manila, six persons, including an incumbent barangay chair, were arrested by the police for allegedly violating election laws.

Of the six, two were picked up on suspicion of being flying voters while the rest were apprehended for distributing campaign materials inside a polling area.

One of those arrested on Monday was identified as Marlon Mulato, 35.

"She (Mulato) was caught when she could not give the birth date of the registered voter whose name she was using. She just cried and admitted to being a 'flying voter,'" raw investigator PSI Reinhard Layna said.

On the other hand, 19-year-old Rodrigo Liluren, a resident of Quirino Street, Sampaloc, was arrested after he allegedly attempted to cast a vote under a different name at Trinidad Tecson Elementary School.

In the northern part of Metro Manila, the Northern Police District (NPD) said it arrested 39 people for violating the liquor ban.

Supt. Bio Sarandin, NPD public information chief, said in an interview that while the figure was lower compared to the one registered during the May elections, they still wanted to bring it down to zero in future elections.

"The public should know that there should be no drinking during the election period inside or outside of their homes. All sales and purchases of alcohol are prohibited," he pointed out.

Of the 39 arrested, 17 came from Caloocan City and the rest from Navotas. No arrests were made in the cities of Malabon and Valenzuela.

At the start of the implementation of the liquor ban at midnight of Oct. 24, only two people were picked up for violating the law. The number, however, shot up to 37 on election day.

In Pasig City, three cases were picked up by the police for supposedly snatching 112 ballots from a polling precinct in the close of Monday's barangay and SK elections.

They were identified as Ariel Sagayap, 20; Armando Tic-quero, 49; and Gerald Morales, 32,—all residents of the city.

According to Senior Insp. Noel Avesh Yango of the city police, the snatching of ballots took place at around 5 p.m. at Pinoh Elementary School just as the residents were about to begin the canvassing of votes.

He said the three suddenly barged into a polling precinct at the third floor of the school and grabbed an envelope containing 112 ballots from a member of the Board of Election Tellers (BET).

Yango added that he and his men immediately went to the school after receiving a report about the incident. When they got there, they saw three men about to board a motorcycle and arrested them.

During questioning, the three yielded identification cards from an group called Ekkleisa Cities Watch, he said.

"The ballots were still intact at the time. Afterward, everything was immediately turned over to the BET," Yango told the bureau.

He added that they were preparing to file charges against the three men.

Meanwhile, the supporters of a losing candidate in Mandaluyong City held a rally near city hall to protest alleged electoral fraud.

A candidate for Barangay Plainview chair, Julie de Quinto, who had lost to Ryan Mendoza, nephew of Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales, claimed that a lot of his followers—including his mother and daughter-in-law—were not able to cast their votes because their names were not in the voters' list.

He added that he had filed a petition with the local Comelec office in nullify Mendoza's proclamation.

"We have affidavits and proofs to prove our claims," De Quinto said.

Bomb-throwing incident

In Pateros City, a 47-year-old garbage collector was arrested for allegedly throwing a homemade bomb at a public school where the canvassing of votes was being held yesterday afternoon.

The man was identified as Rolando Subaan, a resident of Barangay San Dionisio. His three other cohorts managed to escape, said Senior Supt. Alfredo Valdez, city police chief.

No one was reported killed or injured in the incident, Valdez said the five-seem as he added that they were looking at the possibility that it was election-related.

Initial investigation showed that the incident happened at around 3:30 p.m. at the Pembo-Comembo Elementary School in Kalalimanan, Barangay San Dionisio.

Valdezsaid his companions, who were reportedly waiting in the runaway at the back of the school, suddenly heard an improvised explosive inside one of the classrooms on the second floor.

"It was a good thing that no one was there when it happened since the canvassing was being held in the adjacent classroom. The explosion created a big concrete floor that's why it didn't scare a few," Valdez said. *With Jhaymie U. Andrade, Beverly T. Mantiridad, Alita Gallejo and Thea G. Santos*

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits warehouse in Navotas

A FIRE which reached the fourth alarm hit a warehouse in Navotas City yesterday morning although no deaths or injuries were reported. The city Bureau of Fire Protection office said the fire started at 2:14 a.m. in a warehouse on Riverside Street, Sipac-Almac Village. Shocked inside the structure, which was owned by Manuel Sy, were glasses, tanks and handkerchiefs, according to SFO2 Jose Eden Bagsic. It took firefighters four hours to put out the blaze which was believed to have been caused by a faulty electrical wiring. The BFP estimated the damage to property at P400,000. *Beverly T. Mantiridad*

Man killed while walking home

A 20-YEAR-OLD man was shot dead in Navotas City by two still unidentified gunmen yesterday. Alvin Legazpi, a resident of Champagnat Street in Barangay Tanza, was on his way home with his two ex-partners when the two men knocked his path at around 10 p.m. One of the men suddenly took out a gun and shot the victim in the face and chest. Legazpi was taken to the Pagamutang Bayan ng Mudzon City where he was declared dead on arrival. Investigating authorities said they had yet to identify the two men and the motive for the killing. *Kristine Fabios Manyaong*

6-year-old boy's body found in Manila Bay

HOMICIDE investigators are conducting a probe of the death of a six-year-old boy whose body was fished out of Manila Bay in Malate. Manila Police District homicide section head Insp. Armando Macaraeg described the victim, who had yet to be identified, as dark and of regular build. The boy was naked when he was found by a man on a banca at around 7 p. m. on Monday near the ship's Agapay pier inside the Bayani Compound in Port Area. Macaraeg pointed out that a boatman had reported the boy on the water while he was docking his motorized boat and immediately brought the child to the barangay hall of barangay 649 zone 68, Village watchman Raymond Cassio brought the boy to Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. The police said the body bore no external wounds and that the boy might have drowned. *Jeannette I. Andrade*

Driver arrested for beating up partner

THE POLICE arrested a 36-year-old man for beating his live-in partner in the head with a stick on Monday. Teden Marcelo, a driver and resident of Whitehaven Compound in Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, was charged with violating Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women Act. SPO4 Eleanor Macua, chief of the Mandaluyong police women's desk, said responding policemen and barangay watchmen found Marcelo's live-in partner, who was not identified, with a wooden stick inside their house. According to the victim, Marcelo came home and got angry when he saw his clothes strewn about. She added that his bare feet clothes off, slapped her several times and then started hitting her with a stick on the head. Their neighbors alerted the police who rushed to the scene. "She was not the first time he did this to me. The last time, he splashed beer on my face in front of his friends," the victim told the police who took Marcelo into their custody. *Alexis Calleja*

Man dies in Manila fire

A MAN died of suffocation during a two-hour fire that gutted before dawn yesterday a three-story building in Manila. The fatality, identified only as a certain "Dan," died at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center due to smoke inhalation. SFO2 Emmanuel Gaspar of the Manila fire district said that the blaze for the three-story building, owned by the Capitol Realty Development Inc., at 788 Cuenco Blvd. in Barangay 644 Zone 67, 18 Hacks Avenue, It started at 4:17 a.m., and was put out at almost 6 a.m. *Jeannette I. Andrade*

Arraignment of hostage-taker's brod reset anew

THE ARRAIGNMENT of SPO2 Gregorio Mendoza, brother of slain hostage-taker Senior Insp. Capt. Rolando Mendoza, on charges of service obstructions during the hostage-taking crisis at Quirino Grandstand was again reset yesterday to a later date. Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 11 presiding Judge Cristo Ernest Louis B. Miguel yesterday set the arraignment and preliminary conference for Dec. 3 after Delgado's counsel from the Public Attorney's Office filed a motion for reconsideration of their motion to quash the case. The request for case dismissal was denied earlier. *Jaymie T. Carroll*

DIDYOU KNOW

THE METROpolitan Manila Development Authority disbursed out around P20,000 for each pole subject to stolen all over the Metro in 2009. *SAMANTHA Bonifacio Manila Bureau*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

(from the PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE)

Please be informed that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has transferred to the ground and third floors of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Secretariat Building, CCP Complex Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila effective October 26, 2010.

Patients seeking medical assistance can still go to PCSO's Charity Clinic and Fund Allocation departments at the Quezon Institute, Quezon City until November 26, 2010.

PARA SA PUBLIKO

(mula sa PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE)

Ipinaaalala ng pamunuan ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) na ang kanilang opisina ay nalalapit-puan sa una at ikatlong palapag ng Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Secretarial Building CCP Complex Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila simula Oktubre 26, 2010.

Ang mga nagnanais na humingi ng tulong medikal ay maaari pa rin ring magtungo sa Quezon Institute na Quezon City kung saan mananatili ang tanggapan ng Charity Clinic at Fund Allocation Department hanggang Nobyembre 26, 2010.

Obama won't back Democrat

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama traveled to the northeastern state of Rhode Island to campaign in the last days before congressional elections rally to revive a longtime lobbying from the Democrat running for governor in the smallest US state.

Patrick Caprio unleashed the noisy and highly emotional rally ahead of the looming Red Obama's arrival to energize Democratic voters in the Nov. 2 balloting.

The motivational election is widely expected to give Republicans control of the House of Representatives. Republicans were likewise expected to take the keys to many state governors' mansions currently held by Democrats. Democrats say Democratic likely will lose votes but hold their majority in the Senate.

The widespread demands into enthusiasm of Democrats' struggle this year as voters increasingly blame them and the president for the miserable American economy and Democrat unemployment rate.

Some Democrats have even declined campaign appearances by the president, whose approval ratings have fallen sharply as the midpoint of his first term. He is not on the ballot again until 2012.

Caprio's cheap words were in contrast to early remarks in which he said, in recently as Sunday night, that he was looking forward to Obama's first Rhode Island visit as president.

But after learning Obama would not be embracing him, Caprio said in a radio interview on Monday that the president could "take his endorsement and really shove it." He said he would not attend two Obama events on Monday night.

The White House did not respond to Caprio's outburst, but deputy spokesperson Bill Burton said Obama will hold fast to endorsements "out of respect for his friend Lincoln Chafee."

Chafee is one of four candidates running for race. The former Republican senator, who is running as an independent, served with Obama for two years and gave him a high-profile endorsement ahead of the state's Democratic presidential primary in 2008.

Caprio appeared to be trying to turn Obama's rebuff into a campaign plus, telling a "Washington insider politics of it to me."

"What I'm saying to President Obama very clearly is: I'll treat us as a badge of honor and a badge of courage that he doesn't want to endorse me as a Democrat, because I am a different kind of Democrat," he said.

Democrats are counting heavily on a good showing in the more than 3.7 million ballots already cast in the 20 states where early voting is permitted or where absentees have been counted, underscoring the importance of getting out the vote drives that now begin long before Election Day.

"It's not enough to just play politics," Obama said on Monday in Wisconsin. Rhode Island. "You can't focus on the next election. You've got to focus on the next generation." AP

PRESIDENT Obama speaks with Providence Mayor David Cicilline at a Democratic campaign rally in Providence, Rhode Island. AP/PE

WORLD BRIEFS

French strikes wave

PARIS—Gas/pipe collectors began blocking Marseille's refining terminals of fuel on Tuesday, and a fourth French oil refineries geared up to restart operations as the battle against a regime retirement age test screws workers, fuel-outside protests and strikes over raising the retirement age from 60 to 62 have drawn millions to the streets and shutting down one gas station in four. Fervently students, pledging to keep the movement going, planned demonstrations in 200 French cities on Tuesday. Unions have called for another nationwide day of demonstrations on Thursday—but by then, the retirement reform could have passed its final hurdle in France's parliament. AP

Octopus oracle is dead

FRANKFURT—A German news agency said the octopus that gained world fame by correctly predicting World Cup results has died. The German news agency cited the death of Paul the US Squid soon announced by the aquarium in Oberhausen. Paul correctly predicted all seven matches Germany played and also picked Spain to win the World Cup final over the Netherlands. AP

Most corrupt nations

BERLIN—An international watchdog group said Afghanistan remained the war-torn country's most corrupt country, and Iraq was not far behind. The annual report of Transparency International found Somalia to be the most corrupt country, followed by Afghanistan into which that with the like Myanmar), and then Iraq. Denmark, New Zealand and Singapore tied for first place on the most corruption-free nations. Of the 178 countries surveyed about public sector corruption, nearly three-quarters fell below an index score of five on a scale where zero is the most corrupt and 10 is the most. AP

Cash from Iran, US

CABUL—Afghan President Hamid Karzai acknowledged on Monday that he receives millions of dollars in cash from Iran, adding that Washington gave him "huge suitcases." But he denied the office lacked funds. US officials said the money flowing from Tehran was to further proof that Iran was playing a double game in Afghanistan—winning the good will of the while helping Taliban insurgents fight US and Nato forces. The United States has stated it will cash as an example to the many in the Afghanistan economy—from incumbent parliamentarians to vote public support, to salaries for Iraqi lawmakers, into individual aides, to cash payments to influential community leaders willing to back the United States and its allies. AP

Iran's nuclear reactor

TEHRAN—Iranian leading local rule the country's first nuclear power plant on Tuesday, moving down to the start up of a facility that the United States and Israel to stop over fear that Tehran's nuclear ambitions. Iranian authorities said the completion of the plant, controlled by the Islamic Republic, is a blow of defiance against UN Security Council sanctions against its nuclear program. AP

Tariq Aziz to hang

BAGHDAD—Saddam Hussein's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, was sentenced to death by hanging on Tuesday for persecuting members of Muslim religious parties under the his own regime. Iraq's high criminal court judge, Judge Mohammed Uraibi Saleh, did not say when Aziz, 74, would be put to death. The death sentence was for a conviction on charges of taking part in a Saddam-led campaign that hunted and executed members of the Shiite Dawa Party, of which current Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is a member. AP

Gay appointees

WASHINGTON—Less than halfway through his first term, President Barack Obama has appointed more openly gay officials than any president in history. Gay activists say the administration has appointed more than 150 appointments so far—from agency heads and commissioners to members to policy officials and senior staffers—in the process the previous high of about 140 reached during two-term President Bill Clinton.

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE

GRAND LOTTO 6/55

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Your P20.00, your way to win the GRAND...

274 MILLION*

Wednesday, 27 October 2010 JACKPOT ESTIMATE

HOW TO BE A GRAND MILLIONAIRE?

1. Select the number of draws you want to play.
2. Pick six numbers from 1 to 55 and mark with vertical line. Mark LP for lucky pick if you want the computer to select your numbers.

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HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE?

Prizes amounting to Php5,000.00 and below can be claimed at any authorized Lotto outlet or at the PCSO Provincial District Offices in your area.

Prizes worth more than Php5,000.00 up to Php300,000.00 can be claimed at any of the PCSO Provincial District Offices or at the PCSO Main Office in Quezon City.

Jackpot prize should be validated and claimed at the PCSO Main Office in E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

2nd Prize	P150,000.00
3rd Prize	2,000.00
4th Prize	150.00

Prize Payout Chart

Every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday.

For more information, visit PCSO online: http://www.pcso.gov.ph

SMART 5

TUTOK SABAY TXT

TULOY ANG PAGTUTOK, TULOY ANG PANALO!

Cash Prize Winners

Oct. 16
P400,000 Josephine Brit

Oct. 18
P10,000
Aurora Talamayan
Marcelina G. Billar
Jacqueline De Rojo
Dyrelle Saballegui
Edna Dionio
Jesandro Calad
Marisol B. Leal
Gerry Bedario
John E. Febian
Raymund Mendoza

Oct. 19
P10,000
Annabel Martinez
Christian Arvino Rongcales
Wilfy Barrato
Arnel N. Santiago
Karen Capistrano
Imelda F. Hernandez
Leonida Jumawan Jr.
Darry B. Arguilles
Charmaine Soreno
Ernan S. Moral

Oct. 20
P10,000
Rene Acuña
Cristelo Dallasty
Teresito Dado
Sheila Ibañez
Danaljon Flores
Irene Collighing
Rosselyn Dela Cruz
Arnold D. Tolosa
Precious Vargas
Rea Joy G. Lalesio

Oct. 21
P10,000
Cristino Nuestro
Jeminez L. Castelo
Marianne Manicsing
Christine Arisio
Mosenan M. Diokno
Mariglen Ramos
Jose Paolo Viray
Erwin Pascua
Jessica Sevallone
Domingo Gurlaudo

Oct. 22
P10,000
Grace B. Montejo
Erwin Mendoza
Gerondo Hidalgo
Marcy A. Serafin
Cirilo Villarosa
Rea Vilog
Herwie V. Perez
Mercedes Osmia
Susana I. San Miguel
Amelito Nicolas

Oct. 23
P10,000
Chrissa Hipe
Jean Bandales
Stephanie Palacios
Alexon Manzanillas
Marvin Portugal
Zenaida Arroza
Elsie Paloma
Mark Anthony B. Azores
Jennifer Dela Cruz
Priscilla Felix

Oct. 24
P10,000
Saren Karl M. Aguilar
Dolor Arcos
Myca Fely Villarba
Alfredo P. Alcantara
Michael Dela Cruz

Joseph B. Tagalikod
Marjorie Gutierrez
Jocelyn Marcelo
Cherry Marie Segovia
Lory Lucelo

HER 80 TEXTS A DAY WON HER P400,000!

JOSEPHINE BRIT, a tax retailer in Tanauan, Batangas, Cavite, won a cash prize of P400,000 in this week's Tutok Sabay Txt promo from SMART and TV5.

She was reading her story when she received the call that she had finally won P400,000. She was told that she had a chance to multiply it by up to 3 times if she played the TSP game on #505.

Friends asked her how she did it and Josephine related how she would text TST as much as 80 times a day! "Nagsunu-sunuran na dahong pinunan noon sa text time, at nagpapasalamat na nagpapadala sa aming bahay ng Diyos ang mga kapitbahay na nagbibigay ng load sa amin," she confessed. "Maraming nagsabing sobrang sa load ng kanilang ng TST sa SMART...grabeng mga ang nyong mensahe sa aming mga subscribers," Josephine happily concluded.

Tumutok pa rin sa TV5 at baka ikaw na ang susunod na milyonaryo!

Text TST ON to 8850 for free news and updates.

WWW.TST.COM.PH

Lira Lorenne B. Dasco

The WORLD

Tsunami kills 23; many still missing

JAKARTA—A powerful earthquake triggered a tsunami that pounded villages on remote islands off western Indonesia, killing at least 23 people and leaving more than 160 others missing, witnesses and officials said on Tuesday.

The death toll from the 7.7-magnitude quake, which struck 20 km beneath the ocean floor late Monday, was expected to climb with reports most damage and injuries just starting to trickle in the next day.

Mulhakris, who heads the health ministry's crisis center, said a three-meter-high wave washed away hundreds of houses on Pagai and Sipora, parts of the resource and sparsely populated Mentawai island chain.

"We have 200 body bags on the way, just in case," he said.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire.

VILLAGERS on Sumatra's western coast flee to higher ground following a tsunami warning. AFP

The death toll from the 7.7-magnitude quake that struck Monday night was expected to climb with reports of more damage and injuries just starting to trickle in the next day.

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Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire.

Getting to the Mentawais, a popular surfing spot 280 km from the Sumatra coast, takes 12 hours and the islands are reachable only by boat.

A group of Australians said they were hanging out on the back deck of their chartered surfing vessel, anchored in a nearby bay when the tremor hit. It generated a wave that swept them to smash into a neighboring boat, and before they knew it, white was ripping through their calm.

"We threw whatever we could find—mattresses, foam cushions—that we jumped into the water," Nick Fidler told Australia's Nine Network. "Fortunately, most of us had something to hold onto . . . and we just watched onto the wreckage, and scrambled up the highest trees that we could possibly find and sat up there for an hour and a half."

By daytime, the toll from the quake and tsunami was rising.

Aldo Edward, a disaster management agency official, said 23 bodies were found in coastal villages—mostly on the hardest-hit island of Pagai—and another 167 people were missing.

Waves in some places reached roof tops, and in Muara Siberut, a village on Siberut, 80 percent of the houses were damaged. AP

Lava pressure builds on Indon volcano

MOUNT MERAPI, Indonesia—Indonesia's most volatile volcano groaned and rumbled on Sunday, and scientists warned that pressure building beneath its lava dome could trigger one of the most powerful blasts in years. Thousands of residents living on its slopes were moved to temporary camps.

An avalanche of rocks spilled down Mount Merapi's trembling slopes before dawn and gusts of hot ash shot 30 meters into the air.

The gaseous eruption was persistent building behind a massive lava dome that has formed near the tip of the iconic government-volcanologist Surono told reporters.

"The energy is building up . . . We hope it will release slowly," he said. "Otherwise, we're looking at a potentially huge eruption, bigger than anything we've seen in years."

The alert level for the 2,968-meter mountain has been raised to its highest level.

In 2006, an avalanche of blistering gases and rock fragments raced down the volcano and killed two people. A similar eruption in 1994 killed 60 people, and 1,300 people died in a 1930 blast.

Indonesia, an island archipelago of 237 million people, is prone to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic activity due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire—a series of fault lines encircling from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and Southeast Asia.

Mr. Purnomo, the head of Sleman district on Java island, where Mount Merapi is located, said officials were warning some 11,400 villagers living on the mountain's southern slope to prepare for "urgent evacuation." AP

AUTHORITIES raise the eruption alert on Mount Merapi to the highest level and warn villagers to prepare for an evacuation. AP

THESE are bullet trains will travel the 200-kilometer route from Hangzhou to Hangzhou in just 45 minutes.

Shanghai-Hangzhou bullet rail line opens

SHANGHAI—Two bullet trains glided silently out of a gleaming new station on Tuesday to inaugurate China's latest high-speed rail line, an officials boasting of scoring world records using domestic technology.

Many, but not all, of the trains plying the new railway between Shanghai's western suburb of Hongqiao and Hangzhou will travel the 200 km in 45 minutes, about half the time trains usually take to make the trip at their fastest speeds.

The China-made CRH380B trains has been clocked at almost 400 kph, yearold speed record, though it will usually operate at a maximum speed of 350 kph.

China already has the world's longest high-speed rail network. It aims to have 13,000 km of high-speed rail in operation by 2015 and 16,000 km by 2020.

The efforts to develop China's own ultrahigh-speed rail technology are a showcase project nearly as par with the country's space program in terms of national pride and importance. Railway officials recently announced they were working on technology to boost speeds to over 500 kph.

Railway Minister spokesperson Wang Pengpeng said all the trains's design and equipment of the CRH380 was China's own, though he acknowledged that the program began in cooperation with Japan and other countries. AP

Japan, worried by China, may boost sub fleet

TOKYO—Japan may increase the size of its submarine fleet, officials said, as concerns rise that the expansion of the Chinese Navy is tipping the regional balance of power.

Japan's defense ministry said a bigger submarine fleet is under consideration, with a final proposal likely to come as early as December.

According to Japanese media reports, the number of submarines would be increased from 16 to 22 over the next four years, a substantial rise that could generate concern from neighboring China.

Though well outnumbered by the Chinese—who now have about 60 subs—the Japanese Navy's submarine fleet is significantly augmented by 130 submarines deployed throughout the region. Japanese subs are generally believed to be better equipped than many of the Chinese vessels since they tend to be newer.

Takehiko Yamamoto, a professor of international relations at Tokyo's Waseda University, said the move by Japan reflected a desire to counterbalance the Chinese Navy's growth and to strengthen joint Japan-US operations.

Yamamoto said Japanese military planners were particularly concerned that China was seeking to have a more credible "blue water Navy" that could operate further away from its coastline. AP

Editor Raul G. Manuelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Cebu Pac stock offering raises P23.3B

Still has option to sell P3.49B worth of shares

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz:** Winston's buying /B3

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Oct. 26, 2010

43.110

STOCK MARKET

Oct. 26, 2010

7.34

Stocks dip on profit-taking

LOCAL STOCKS slipped yesterday as the market pulled back further in dipped gains after recently visiting new highs.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange Index gave up 7.34 points or 0.11 percent to close at 6,278.62, continuing

(STOCKS /B2)

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTORS SNAPPED up shares of Gokongwei-led Cebu Air Inc. on its stock trading debut yesterday on the Cebu Pacific airline operator made global history for a share offering worth at least $539 million, the biggest stock deal by a budget carrier.

Shares of Cebu Air—the biggest in the Philippines in terms of passengers carried and the third-largest budget carrier in Asia—rose 6.4 percent to P132 each from the IPO price of P125. It was the day's most actively traded stock at the Philippine Stock Exchange where it ended its first day of trading with a market capitalization of P79.6 billion.

The company, which started trading under the ticker "CEB", raised P23.3 billion from the sale of primary and secondary shares prior to the exercise of the option given to its underwriters to sell up to P3.49 billion worth of additional shares. This was to be the biggest stock offering size next to the P5B in the years.

Citing new data, Cebu Air said its IPO had topped IPOs previously held by other budget carriers across the globe such as Ryan Air ($130.6 million), Air Asia ($122.52 million) and Tiger Airways ($129.54 million).

"As reported, the shares traded on the IPO

(/B1)

Chairman of the Board Congratulates Makati Hope Christian School Champions

Mr. Luke C. Rivera, Makati Hope Christian School Chairman of the Board, congratulates the MHCS Basketball team for winning the Group-B High School Division of the recent Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation (FCAAF). The MHCS team made its way as champions of the east division, winning over Philippine Academy of Sakya, Manila. The exciting game between the two competing Chinese schools ended with an enormous score of 87-75. Present in the championship game are other MHCS officials: MHCS Principal Rev. Dr. Leonides Sio, Head Coach Wilson Yu, Asst. Coach Chua Kim Sy, Coach Jing Ruiz, and Coach Gus Ferrer. Indeed, the Makati Hope Christian School located at 2312 Chino Roces Ave., Makati (tel. no. 817.11.11) proudly commits to educating student achievers who excel both in sports and academic competitions.

August imports surge 22% to $4.41B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S import bill grew 22 percent year-on-year to $4.41 billion in August, increasing for the 10th straight month, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Total external trade—the combined value of outbound and inbound goods—in the eight months to August reached $66.1 billion, an increase of 31.3 percent from last year.

The trade balance remained in favor of the rest of the world, with the Philippines posting a deficit of $2.34 billion, although this was better than the $4.01-billion gap recorded in the same period of 2009.

Compared to July imports valued at $4.68 billion, shipments in August represented a decrease of 5.7 percent.

A strong inflow of goods from abroad, which indicated a similar movement in exports, is considered a good sign for a country like the Philippines, which relies heavily on foreign supplies of electronics inputs for its biggest source of export revenues.

NSO documents showed that electronic products accounted for 37.3 percent of total imports in August, with the value rising 27.1 percent year-on-year to $1.64 billion.

Semiconductor devices and parts made up

(/B1)

RP seeks new air deal with China

Six-year-old agreement needs updating, says CAB

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT plans to seek more flights between the country and China with representatives of the two countries set down to update their existing air rights agreement next month.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), which heads the Philippine air panel, said it had scheduled a meeting with Chinese counterpart in Beijing on Nov. 23 to update the six-year-old air agreement between the two countries.

"The traffic between China and the Philippines is growing but but the flight entitlements between the two countries are now considerably obsolete," CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arrieta said in an interview.

Arrieta said the country's current air deal with China, which permits 42 to the number of flights that could be flown between the two countries, was signed in 2004 and is now badly needed updating.

Under the existing deal, airlines from the Philippines are allowed to bring a total of 10,000 passengers to and from China every month. Chinese carriers are also entitled to the same number of passengers.

Arrieta said the mandated to pursue seven flights daily for each side. "That's no longer enough," he said.

"China offers a huge potential because of the size of its population and because of the fact that it is emerging to become the biggest economy in the world," he said.

He said airlines from both countries had been clamoring for the increase in entitlements amid the growing demand for travel in the region.

The CAB, he said, had asked local airlines to notify the regulator of the number of flights they might need, which would be the basis for the number of frequencies that the Philippine panel would seek in the negotiations next month.

At the moment, flag carrier Philippine Airlines and budget airline Cebu Pacific have flights to Chinese cities Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzen and Guangzhou.

Asiana Airlines and the air panel was working on new deals with Indonesia and Hong Kong. The body is composed of representatives from the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Department of Tourism, Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Trade and Industry.

MPIC to manage Lourdes Hospital

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE HOLDING firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. has bagged the contract to run Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, the fifth in its cluster of premium healthcare centers.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, the Manuel V. Pangilinan-led MPIC said its subsidiary East Manila Hospital Managers Corp., would manage and operate the 230-bed hospital's existing New 1.

The hospital has been managed by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit congregation (SSpS) since 1998 through Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Inc., a non-stock, non-profit corporation. With the decision of SSpS to turn over the operations and management of the hospital, the non-stock corporation has signed a 20-year lease of the hospital land and facilities in favor of the MPIC unit.

As part of the agreement, East Manila has committed to spend at least P550 million for hospital facilities and equipment over the next five years.

The parties in any more wording on the transfer of operations and management to ensure that the quality care of patients is maintained with core disruption, MPIC said.

"Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital is the fifth hospital in Metro Pacific's growing healthcare portfolio of now about 1,600 beds, and represents another step forward in our vision to establish a nationwide chain of quality hospitals in the Philippines," said Augie Palisoc Jr., MPIC executive director and head of the hospital group.

SPEX gets 45% stake in service contract 54B

By Amy R. Remo

OKLL PHILIPPINES Exploration Inc. is acquiring a 45-percent stake in Service Contract 54B for an area in offshore Northern Palawan containing the highly prospective Cinalum block.

In separate regulatory filings on Monday, consortium members Nido Petroleum Ltd. and Kuntin Energy Ltd. said they had signed an agreement to sell their Philippines Exploration BV to form one portion of their interests in the service contract.

Nido is farming out 27 percent of its interest while Kuntin, through Filipino Petroleum Philippines Pty Ltd., is contributing 18 percent.

PXEX this transaction, SPEX is seen controlling a 45-percent interest in the SC 54B/NAlo, which contains the operator of the field, will have 33 percent, and Hyundai will have 549 with 22 percent.

Under the terms of the agreement, Shell will get the interest in SC 54B provided it will cover 75 percent of the cost of drilling the Gindara-1 exploration well. According to Nido and Kuntin, the drilling of the well may cost up $20 million, which means SPEX has to shell out as much as $15 million (about P714 million).

SPEX is also expected to pay $2.5 million for past seismic costs and to pro-rata share of the 2010 and 2011 work programs and budget from the date of signing.

The transaction was still subject to certain conditions, including joint venture approvals, the approval by the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) of certain amendments to the service contract and the assignment of the relevant participating interest to SPEX.

"I am very pleased to announce that we have been successful in securing Shell into SC54B. The entry of Shell represents the culmination of many years of effort on the part of Nido and Nido," said Rashid Mamaghaniy director Mark Preston.

The entry of SPEX has also led, tracked the planned drilling at the Gindara prospect which was scheduled for March to May next year.

Oriental eyes first nickel ore shipment

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE MINING unit of listed Oriental Peninsula Resources Group Corp. (ORE) is set to make its first shipment of high-grade nickel ore from its mine site in southern Palawan in December this year.

In a statement, the company said about 150,000 metric tons of nickel ore with an average grade of 2.1 percent, were earmarked for shipments to Taiwan and Australia.

ORE chair and president Caroline Tanduay in the same statement, said company subsidiary Citinickel Mines and Development Corp. had been operating since August and **stockpiling nickel ore in its Southern Palawan** mine site. The company would be ready with **three shipments of nickel ore** by the end of the year.

"If not for the heavy rains in Bilaran, Citinickel could have produced more. However, I'm glad we can finally ship out high-grade nickel ore, which is good news for our shareholders," Tanduay said.

The scheduled shipment follows the signing and submission before the Regional Trial Court of a compromise settlement that ended the long-running dispute between Citinickel and erstwhile rival Hamsum Group Mehak Corp. **The settlement was submitted in August.**

ORE said earlier that the composition deal will allow the two remaining legal tussles in the Citinickel to finally operate in earnest in Palawan.

The area is covered by a 25-year Mineral Production Sharing Agreement granted to Citinickel by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2007.

Citinickel's nine water-to-ship borrows are located in Bagtabalucan, while 760 hectares are in the municipality of Narra, both in southern Palawan.

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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		LAGUNA		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Winston's buying

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

SPUNOFF CEBUANO lawyer Winston Garcia may no longer be in charge of the influential Government Service Insurance System pension fund, but his presence is still being felt in the stock market in his capacity as a private investor.

Garcia—who was instrumental in a number of corporate mergers and acquisitions sealed during the previous regime, making tons of money for the GSIS in the process—has recently been picking up shares of San Miguel Corp., his last so far accumulation 10,000 shares of San Miguel worth P705,000 as of yesterday's close.

Though a drop in the basket compared to San Miguel's total number of outstanding shares, this he had to disclose as Garcia is not an independent director on the board of the diversifying conglomerate.

Though left with a small public free float after the conversion of a lot of common shares to preferred shares recently, the remaining common shares of San Miguel are now trading at a 52-month high of P76.50 each alongside the broader local equities market. By 2011, San Miguel is also to benefit from its first full year of consolidation with previously acquired power generation assets. *Doris C. Bonoan*

UST@400 peso bills

IN COMMEMORATION of the upcoming quadricentennial celebration of the University of Santo Tomas in 2011, the pontifical university has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to print a special series of bank notes with the UST logo.

To recall, the BSP had paid tribute to the University of the Philippines in 2008 with the second print of the iconic UP Oblation on a limited edition of 100 peso notes in honor of the centennial anniversary of the premier state university. Such UP "Oblo" bills drew as much frenzy, especially among shrewd seat collectors, as the misspelled "Noinoy" bills that slipped to circulation in 2005.

Unfortunately for UST, however, the company does not have existing bank notes denominated in P400 to exactly match its anniversary. The next best thing was thus to propose for an inscription of the UST logo on 200-peso banknotes with the year mark 2011. This ensures that Aurora de Manila University won't be the first to print the P200-peso notes with its logo when its sole brand in 2008 is past its 200th. *Doris C. Bonoan*

Goldilocks wakes up

LOCAL restaurant chain Goldilocks, most known for its cakes that almost every Filipino has had his fix or her birthday as a child, plans to expand aggressively in the coming years to compete with other big names in the country.

The people behind Goldilocks recently revamped its image, replacing its logo from the pale-faced little girl with curly hair to a bigger-looking boy with "S."

But more than the cosmetic change, the owners of the bakeshop chain are close to launching here a new fast-food chain brand from the United States.

What this new chain is, exactly, the people at Goldilocks refuse to divulge. All we know is that the new fast-food chain serves dishes that the four-decade-old bakery never had. Officials say the new chain, which will be launched before the year ends, is part of the group's efforts to stay competitive against big names like Jollibee and Mercedes Bonuts.

Incidentally, Tony Tan Caktiong's Jollibee and Martin Lorenzo's Pancake House have both been rumored to have approached Goldilocks' owners on a possible buyout. The bakeshop chain, which also serves merienda, has always resisted. *Paolo Montecillo*

New airlines at Clark

AMID the allegations by a local government official against Clark International Airport Corp. president and CEO Victor Jose Lucious, the man has once again managed to bring in another airline to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (after previous successes in courting Asiana, Air Asia, Tiger Airways, Cebu Pacific, Jetair and Spirit of Manila).

Biz Buzz learned that Korean Air's wholly owned budget carrier—called Jin Air—will have its inaugural roundtrip flight to CRK from Incheon, South Korea. Jin Air will operate five flights a week to CRK.

According to our sources, CIAC is also finalizing negotiations with another Philippine airline to launch its regional flights just before Christmas.

Next year—scheduled just after the Chinese New Year—Clark will be established as the hub of a new Philippine carrier. This new airline will launch international flights that may include long-haul flights to the West Coast. This would depend, of course, on how soon local regulators can convey the findings and convince the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) to bring back the Philippines to the elusive Category 1 status.

Lucious predicts that the nine-million passengers-a-year mark will be reached by the end of 2011, given this administration's push for greater airline access to selected airports in the country. *Dante L. Lucas*

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IT-BPO revenue seen hitting $20B-$25B by 2016

By Abigail L. Ho

REVENUE FROM information technology and business process outsourcing in the country is expected to hit $20 billion by 2016, and it may even reach as high as $25 billion with stronger public-private partnership.

According to the "IT-BPO Road Map 2011-2016: Driving Global Leadership," which was presented at the International Outsourcing Summit yesterday, a $20-billion industry could be achieved by 2016 with continued sectoral industry effort and strong government support.

An industry that big would give employment to as many as 900,000 individuals, the road map showed.

With strong public-private partnerships, the road map showed that the Philippine IT-BPO industry had the potential to generate revenue of as much as $25 billion and employment for as many as 1.2 million people.

While these figures were highly ambitious, given the Philippines' track record in the industry, the study found that talent development was many-would have to be addressed.

Talent development issues need to be addressed

In a briefing yesterday, Gaurav Gupta, managing partner of road map co-developer Everest Group, said there should be strong collaboration between the industry and the government from now until 2016 to determine common issues that had to be addressed.

"This includes initiatives in the area of educational and training incentives and reforms, enhanced visibility of the Philippine country brand internationally, and better appreciation among stakeholders of the opportunities available in the IT-BPO industry and the kinds of jobs that are being created," he said.

Business Processing Association of the Philippines chief executive Oscar Amen agreed, adding that the industry needed to refocus some of its initiatives.

In terms of capabilities, he said the local IT-BPO industry had to market niche verticals that had the greatest growth potential, including healthcare and more advanced finance, accounting, marketing, and human resource processes.

Talent development activities should likewise be taken one notch higher, he said, with focus now given on certification.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

October 30, 2018 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1 USD =	1.000000	52.774100
Japan	Yen	1 JPY =	0.008870	0.468100
United Kingdom	Pound	1 GBP =	1.267000	66.856300
Hong Kong	Dollar	1 HKD =	0.127470	6.726600
Switzerland	Franc	1 CHF =	1.000140	52.782500
Canada	Dollar	1 CAD =	0.764100	40.319600
Singapore	Dollar	1 SGD =	0.730000	38.520600
Australia	Dollar	1 AUD =	0.720010	37.995700
Denmark	Krone	1 DKK =	0.151000	7.968600
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	1 SAR =	0.266500	14.065600
Kuwait	Dinar	1 KWD =	3.312000	174.800000
Thailand	Baht	1 THB =	0.030000	1.583200
UAE	Dirham	1 AED =	0.272300	14.367600
EU	Euro	1 EUR =	1.150000	60.691100
Korea	Won	1 KRW =	0.000900	0.047500
China	Yuan	1 CNY =	0.145000	7.650500
Indonesia	Rupiah	1 IDR =	0.000070	0.003700
India	Rupee	1 INR =	0.014300	0.754600
Malaysia	Ringgit	1 MYR =	0.243000	12.821500
New Zealand	Dollar	1 NZD =	0.690000	36.412400
Sweden	Krona	1 SEK =	0.110000	5.804900
Taiwan	NT Dollar	1 TWD =	0.032000	1.688700

Ortigas to go public in 2011

Drilon retires as chief operating officer

By Daniel L. Lucas

PROPERTY developer Ortigas & Co. will embark on an eventful public offering next year, marking a major milestone in the 79-year-old company's move toward corporate-market orientation.

At the same time, outgoing chief operating officer Jon Drilon II said the company—one of the oldest real estate firms in the country—will also introduce sophisticated financial instruments like real estate investment trusts to take advantage of new financial market developments.

Drilon, who retires today, Jan. 11th birthday—said he would stay on as a consultant of the company until it has completed its planned three-year investment in mid-2013.

"Things are still in the pipeline so I cannot disclose details yet," the Ortigas chief said, although he did disclose that the funds to be raised from the IPO and REIT issue would be used to fund the firm's growing list of projects.

Ortigas & Co. is officially classified as a limited partnership. The planned IPO will officially convert the firm into a full-fledged corporation.

In a briefing yesterday, Drilon recapped his nine-year stint at the firm, which included the re-entry of Ortigas & Co. in the real estate market in 2006 that resulted in its successful Lantaw Hills Resort condominium project. The company then launched Greenhills Westa, a 2,000-unit mid-market residential condominium built on 12 hectares of land near Ilihe, Quezon City.

As the CEO of Ortigas & Co., Drilon co-chaired the revival of Greenhills shopping Center which is undergoing expansion and renovation. The shopping complex has since registered an upward in bottom line growth of more than 600 percent over six years, the company said.

Ortigas & Co. also constructed other developments, including the 10 hectare Frontera Verde complex in Pasig City that houses the Tendulkar shopping center, new knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) giant Transcom, Ilihe City Hall Hypermarket, Ark Arthur Executive Park.

BUSINESS

Yield on 7-year debt paper settles at 5.375%

By Roxanne W. Dancuigo

THE YIELD on seven-year Treasury bonds yesterday settled at a coupon of 5.375 percent, dropping by 34.5 basis points from the 5.72 percent seen during the previous auction for the same issue held last August.

The results tend to suggest that the domestic financial market is "generally very receptive to the prevailing interest rate condition," National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan said in an interview after yesterday's auction.

Yesterday's offer of P8 billion was oversubscribed by about a quarter, with lenders tendering a total of P9.955 billion.

The last time the Bureau of the Treasury issued fresh seven-year debt paper was in March, when the coupon was pegged at 7 percent.

Tan said the returns of tenders yesterday indicated lenders were testing what rates would be acceptable to the government for the fresh seven-year issues, in light of the government's continued deficit spending.

Finance officials said the national budget deficit raised to P209.6 billion as of end-September.

The amount is P13.9 billion, or 7 percent, lower than the planned P223.7 billion deficit spending for the nine-month period.

Even then, the deficit for the period was P22.3 billion, or 19.4 percent, higher than the deficit incurred in the same period in 2009.

The budget deficit for the first three quarters of the year represents about 80 percent of the projected full-year deficit of P125 billion.

In a study on the Philippines released in September, investment research firm UBS Securities said the Philippine monetary environment could be expected to "remain credit friendly as fiscal policy tries appear too less as a condition even looks."

NCR holds 67% of total bank deposits

By Michelle V. Ramos

WHILE THERE has been progress in providing wider access to financial services in certain parts of the country, rural areas continue to lag behind the National Capital Region in terms of maximizing bank services, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. reported.

In a statement, PDIC said 67 percent, or P3.18 trillion, of total bank deposits in the country as of end-June were parked in banks located in the NCR. There are 2,728 banking units—head offices and their branches—in the NCR.

On the other hand, deposits placed in banks outside the NCR amounted to only P1.57 trillion. There are 5,298 banks outside the NCR.

Also, industry data gathered by the PDIC showed that of the total bank deposits in the NCR, bulk of the interest, or P1.24 trillion, were placed in three key cities—Makati, Manila and Quezon City, PDIC said.

The amount was 42.3 percent more than the P1.57 trillion in combined deposits outside NCR.

"[The data] suggest the potential for banking in areas outside Metro Manila waiting to be tapped," PDIC said.

Meanwhile, there is also a huge discrepancy between the per capita distribution of deposits in NCR and elsewhere. The average deposit of each person in NCR stands at P275,316. It is 258 times higher than the P1,198 in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

BSP: Global imbalance isn't Asia's problem alone

THE PHILIPPINES and other Asian countries should not fully bear the burden of solving the so-called "global imbalance," and that the United States and other more advanced economies must do their share in addressing the issue, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials said.

In a press conference in Jakarta last week, the International Monetary Fund urged Asian economies, including the Philippines, to allow their currencies to appreciate some more to help the world economy attain a measure of balance.

According to IMF, the world economy is in a state of "imbalance," where Asia is experiencing robust growth while Western countries, led by the United States, are struggling from economic lethargy.

But the Philippines and its neighbors have already been doing their part to help improve the world economy. BSP officials believe that the IMF must persuade advanced economies to do their share by putting an end to excessive stimulus measures.

"The advice [of the IMF] is quite balanced. Exchange rates of emerging market economies have been appreciating all these months.... It will be more useful if the [International Monetary Fund] will now insist that the rebalancing process should be intensified by the advanced economies where all these [countries] have been [in the] past [to] stimulate [their] economies," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo told the business editor asked to comment about the IMF's proposal.

Michelle V. Ramos

Galoc consortium exceeds 2010 oil production target

By Amy R. Remo

PRODUCTION AT the Galoc oil field off Palawan has reached roughly 2.4 million barrels to date, exceeding full year production target of 2.24 million barrels, according to consortium member Nido Petroleum Ltd.

In a regulatory filing, Nido cited an official release of field operator Galoc Production Co. (GPC), which also disclosed that there were 248,000 barrels of crude oil currently stored in a floating production storage and offtake (FPSO) facility.

The stored crude oil is expected to be delivered to a buyer by the middle of November. This will be the eighth cargo to be lifted from Galoc oil field this year. The last shipment was made on Sept. 20.

In the third quarter alone, GPC delivered two separate crude oil shipments of close to 700,000 barrels to buyers in Korea.

As of end-September, the Galoc oil field had yielded 5.83 million barrels since operations began in October 2008, drawing over half of the estimated recovered 1.8 million barrels.

Nido also reported that GPC would continue with its Phase 2 development of the Galoc field to increase oil production.

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Flora Sese:
Smart and Steadfast

Flora Sese has been a loyal patient of The Medical City (TMC) since the 1970's, witnessing first-hand its evolution into one of the country's top health care facilities. When she started feeling sharp pains in her abdominal area in 2008, she immediately sought treatment there, and was referred to hepatologist Dr. Eternity D. Labio of the hospital's Center for Liver Diseases Management and Transplantation (Liver Center).

A thorough work-up revealed that Flora had liver cirrhosis. She then underwent screening for liver cancer under Dr. Labio's encouragement, and it was a very good thing she did—she was found to have a malignant tumor as well. Having diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol due to being in her senior years made matters even more delicate.

Flora then met with a complete multidisciplinary team of specialists which included Dr. Labio, interventional radiologist Dr. Reinner S. Santos-Ocampo, and Dr. Vanessa H. de Villa, a liver surgeon and Director of the Liver Center.

"I was scared at first," says Flora. "But we discussed my treatment options as a group, and Dr. Labio told me not to worry. Since my cancer was detected early, I was eligible for curative treatment."

Flora and the team then decided to treat her cancer with transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) and radiofrequency ablation (RFA). For her cirrhosis and other lifestyle diseases, continuous monitoring, proper medication and the correct optimization of her medical management were prescribed.

Rediscovering another treatment seemed, Flora poured in for an excellent patient partner. She actively participated in the management of her health by constantly collaborating with her medical team and by being receptive of her condition.

"It was very important that she complied with her medications, and that she stuck to regular follow-ups with her physicians," says Dr. Labio. "Flora was completely cooperative, and she really made sure that she regularly communicated with us. She didn't neglect her treatment."

Flora's commitment has certainly been paying off. She remains active and well despite her diseases, and as of this writing, her tumor continues to shrink, sparing her from serious complications.

"Flora is absolute proof that you can look great, be happy and feel well despite liver disease," Dr. Labio asserts.

"You don't have to feel hopeless just because you have cancer," says Flora. "You just have to be positive and make smart decisions."

No matter how much TMC's services and facilities have improved since the 70's, the true mark of its success lies in how well the hospital's patients and doctors work together towards affection. Labio made treatment, in this light, Flora has not only remained loyal to TMC as an establishment, but has also remained true to TMC as a beacon for how great health care should be.

The Medical City's Center for Liver Diseases Management and Transplantation is committed to reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with liver disease in the Philippines through appropriate and innovative strategies performed by a highly-skilled multidisciplinary team.

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Editor Joey B. Arcenas

No stopping auto firms from breaking mark

By Abigail L. Ho

THE FIRST three quarters saw vehicle sales growing by a remarkable 35.6 percent, with the industry now poised to surpass its 2006 all-time high sales of 162,000 units even before the year ends.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. revised its full-year growth target for the third time in late September, after witnessing the seemingly unrelenting appetite of Filipino motorists for new vehicles.

From an initial conservative growth target of 9 percent for the year, Canapi in the second quarter jacked up its projection to an 11-percent growth, equivalent to 169,000 units of 140,791 units.

After three quarters of strong growth, however, the group again hiked its year-end forecast to between 170,000 and 175,000 units—a range that industry players felt was very much achievable, given the trend these past nine months.

Pedlan Dytiancquin, vice president for marketing services of industry No. 2 Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., related that given the industry's sales momentum, 2010 sales would surely surpass the 162,000-unit record to reach at least 173,000 units.

"The last quarter will not only be supported by the expected seasonal trend, but will also be backed by aggressive marketing promotions of car companies," he said in an email interview.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. first vice president for vehicle sales operations Raymund Rodrigues said the economy's strong recovery, which became more pronounced in the second quarter, as well as the introduction of new vehicle models also bolstered local vehicle sales.

The industry got another shot in the arm with the extensive and readily available financing packages offered by banks and financing firms and the increased spending power of families of overseas Filipino workers, Canapi president and Universal Motors Corp. chief operating officer Elizabeth Lee said.

"Sales for the last quarter should remain healthy as consumers and business confidence remains steady," she said.

Exception rather than the rule

While the industry's growth momentum was expected to carry over to 2011, this year was more an exception rather than the rule, Dytiancquin said.

"Industry sales grew by 26 percent [from January to September]. We believe that a very unique set that coincide[d] to increase was brought about by the spillover of 'Ondoy' replacement, which was evident in the first and second quarters," he said. "The increase in business and consumer confidence, brought about by the new administration, were also obvious."

But Lee was not to say that next year would not be another growth year for the industry. He said vehicles sales in 2011 were poised to grow at a rate of around 3-5 percent—a conservative number considering the huge spike in sales this year.

To capitalize on this year's momentum, he said Mitsubishi would continue to strengthen its dealer network and bank on the strong take-up of its Montero Sport, Strada, Adventure, Lancer and L300 models.

Industry leader Toyota, on the other hand, expressed confidence that it would continue to hold on to its crown in 2011 and that the industry would not lose steam in the coming years, especially with proper government support.

"It's almost certain that the industry will surpass this year the 162,000-unit record set in 1996). We also expect steady growth next year and the years to come. With full government support to local manufacturing, Toyota sees potential in the future expansion of its operations," Toyota Philippines vice president for corporate affairs Instruel Gavarrete said.

In the January-September period, Toyota sold 41,281 vehicles for a 32.4-percent share of the market, its second place was Mitsubishi with 23,398 units in sales and an 18.9-percent share of the pie.

Completing the top three was Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. with a market share of 12.1 percent on sales of 15,375 units as of end-September.

THE LS460h, a four-door limousine with an imposing presence, is the new flagship brand of Lexus.

Power of halo

Nobody does pure hybrid drivetrains like Toyota and Lexus

THE RX confirms tall and roomy seating for five with the smooth manners of a luxury sedan.

By Jason K. Ang

CAN LUXURY/SPORT luxury and efficiency co-exist? Lexus Philippines shows us how and why with two new hybrids.

Each carmaker has its own distinctive characteristic—a reason why buyers would consider its offerings above others. This is especially true for luxury brands, which are all about image as much as any semblance of utility. Lexus has built its reputation on quality and reliability—an assurance that its sophisticated cars are bulletproof as those of parent company Toyota. So when Lexus Philippines launched two hybrid vehicles last week, the RX450h and the LS460hL, it was with the assurance that the cars would be as comfortable and reliable as the best of its lineup. Whereas luxury [illegible] and economy (hybrid) would normally be contradictory, the new vehicles attempt to merge the two using the automotive technology where Toyota and Lexus holds the [illegible] hybrid drivetrain.

The first vehicle to grab the spotlight is the RX450h. It is a hybrid version of the crossover that's been with us for some time, the successor to the RX 350 in Lexus' local lineup. The RX combines tall and roomy seating for five with the smooth manners of a luxury sedan. Put the RX450h, the powertrain incorporates not one but two electric motors. The front motor works with a gasoline 3.5-liter 24-valve V6. The V6 follows an Atkinson combustion cycle, a configuration that enhances torque. From stand-still and at low speeds, the electric motor with 123 kW and, more importantly 335Nm of torque, smoothly propels the car by itself. At higher speeds, the V6 kicks in as the primary propulsion. The electric motor can add its torque for full acceleration. When the car is braking or decelerating, the motor acts as a generator, recharging the batteries. During deceleration or if idle stops, the engine shuts off to conserve fuel and cut emissions. The driver has to be use of another electric motor to provide drive to the rear wheels. This provides the RX with part time all-wheel drive. Total system power is 295 hp. Promised fuel efficiency is a gasoline 5.6-liter V8 with 394 hp. That would suffice for most customers, but Lexus combines this with a 185 kW/308Nm electric motor, to make for a combined output of 438 hp. As with the RX, the electric motor alone can propel the car from standstill and in stop-and-go conditions, and can assist the gasoline engine for full acceleration. The cars are not plug-in hybrids and thus don't need any recharging via an external outlet.

Akihiro Watanabe, chief engineer of the Lexus Development Center, says that the LS600hL delivers "the power of a 6.0-liter engine, yet it is as efficient as a 3.0-liter engine vehicle." Quoted efficiency is 10.8 km/liter, with 251 grams/km carbon emissions than an engine of similar performance.

As is Lexus tradition, the LS comes with a long list of standard features, including LED low beams in projector-set Bi-Xs), [illegible] 19-inch wheels, leather-trimmed power seats, self-closing doors and trunk, seat ventilation, and (you kid you not) a seat vibrator. There are two versions, a five-seat car that goes for 6.6 million, and a more luxurious four-seater, which retails at 10.998 million. The four-seat model adds [illegible] type seat, 48-inch more rear legroom, a folding rear table, refrigerator and DVD entertainment system. The self-parking feature, which allows for hands-free parallel parking that you've seen on YouTube—the LS has that, too. If the Prius is anything to go by, the Lexus hybrids have impressed customers as one of its features. A 19-speaker Mark Levinson audio system is a nice way to enjoy the silence. The RX is no slouch, either, with 18-inch alloy wheels, moonroof, dual-zone aircon, a wood-and-leather interior, nine-speaker Lexus audio system, and powered hatch.

The whole philosophy of the Lexus hybrid has line in common with the Prius and racer with that of Formula One and its Kinetic Energy Recovery System. The hybrid system is a tool to enhance performance and image. While it is true that luxury cars pushing diesel engines can achieve the same efficiency without the need for an extra motor or batteries—a BMW 5 Series diesel comes to mind—there are cars with four or six-cylinder engines and are a class smaller. The LS600hL packs a lot, is much larger, and can still match Lexus for efficiency. It's like having cake to eat efficiency, high-calorie goodness from Chef Lexulus and not gain a gram of weight. Who wouldn't take that deal?

A cynic might wonder, if you truly can shoot being more environmentally friendly, why not just buy a smaller car, or even (gasp) take public transportation? Alas, not everyone would be so humble and unpretentious. For reasons of safety considerations and proportions of grandeur, only the best would do. Thus, the Lexus cars you see here.

In the point of the vehicle exercise intensity to elevate hype, luxury luxury vehicles in a think of environmentally responsibility? We would say no, as there is genuine technological advancement here. Nobody does pure hybrid drivetrains like Toyota/Lexus. The Prius achieves fuel economy that is way beyond what's there can do to combat emissions, and has the added benefit of being a halo car for Toyota. Similarly, those two hybrids not only trump the competition when it comes to fuel economy, they battle the vehicle having in a bunch for of being kinder on the fuel pump, and being more friendly to the environment—through technology unique to Lexus.

MITSUBISHI LANCER EVOLUTION X MR

Improving the breed

By Boochi Santos

THE EVO IX MR goes about its business with benign aggression.

DRIVING THE car from my colleague (more drag who writes about the new Subaru BRZ sedan), I thought of reviewing the Mitsubishi Lancer EVO X to give it (also) a sedan point.

The GT version of the EVO lines enjoyed in some quarters for about two decades, starting in the various stages and authors of the World Rally Championship, the Super Tarkan Series in Japan, run, too, local rallies, hill-climb, time attack and [illegible] competitions. Its brutal [illegible] and lucky for the covered open to the garages of those who are lucky and able to afford either one of these rally replicas.

While the Subaru has stayed with the wood and normal EJ257 engine block for most markets, the EVO says goodbye to the legendary iron block and sandcast square 4G63, welcoming the all-new perfectly square design 4B11 all-aluminum turbocharged engine with a new heating exhaust manifold that greatly minimizes turbo lag, improves the [illegible] twin-scroll turbine's spool-up and response, and for two reasons one does improves the base up time of the exhaust catalyst for faster warm-ups and less noxious emissions. MIVEC variable valve control cam timing helps response low-rpm and mid-range power allowing the Evo X to deliver an even 300hp/300lbs-ft of torque. I was able to max out at 240km/h before hitting what seemed like the speed limiter. It was still some way off the 300km/h top speed so I was quite disappointed.

The Lancer body has grown significantly, increasing wheel-base and rear seat legroom. Dynamically it has helped the EVO Lancer more stable at faster speeds. The National Highway Traffic and Safety Institute of America awarded the Lancer thanks and all its variants as the safest donuts in its class for 2010, able to resist four times its weight placed on its roof, simulating a roll-over. No wonder the EVO feels [illegible] solid. Despite all the chassis and suspension stiffness and firmness, there is absolutely no harshness that penetrates the cabin and interior. It still retains the traditional MacPherson strut front suspension, [illegible] back to its very plebeian roots, part-car origins, but also comes with a multi-link rear suspension that rivals engineering from Europe's best, thanks in part to the excellent Bilstein dampers delivering the best ever suspension feel, stability and composure in this price range.

The SST twin-clutch transmission is also new, and has received raised reviews from tuners and owners alike. Maybe I'm getting old, but I love the [illegible] lifestyles like an automatic transmission for the most part in traffic, but rewards with lightning quick response on the track or open road.

The interior is hi-tech Lancer GX, but thankfully carries with the powerful, although rather ether modest sounding 710 watt Rockford Dragnite sound system, the many weapons-grade looking 3-spoke steering wheel and highly supportive RECARO bucket seats covered in leather and suede that quite frankly would look very much at home in an S600 deal in San Francisco (although I've HONESTLY never been inside one, promise!).

A key difference between the EVO MR and the regular Evo, aside from the transmission and wheels (the MR gets big fighter 18IN lucid-wheels as opposed to lesser variants getting cast stealth spoke Enkei units) are the brakes. The MR comes with 2-piece 340mm rotors with aluminum hub hats that help dissipate heat better out on the track by Nabo International Raceway's/Arctic back straights, hauling the MR down from 170km/h was a walk in the park, even after more than 7 flat out laps. ABS, EBD with brake assist helps you from [illegible] stop scenerio when you both like a bore on the track. Should you lose it, five airbags will cushion the blow to your body parts.

The five I MR goes about its business with benign aggression, there is no wasted motion here on the laurel it hates simply atomic yes. It retains unusual tight footprint like it gets an imaginary push in the back, thanks to the Super AYCWheel Control AWD dynamic stability system set in turmoil mode. On bad [illegible] roads, it will push wide very slightly at corner entry but right before you hit the clipping point the tail steps out a wee bit to help the Evo cut across the perfect line through the apex and allows you to power out with ease. Admittedly the front tires were down to the wear indicators [illegible] the wheel, it didn't feel like it. Yeah the handbrake on a hairpin and the various differentials disengage to get maximum sideways action and a quick stomp on the clutch re-engages the drift-back-on and allows you to power out, rally-style.

The EVO feels like a bullet train. Very precise, tidy and efficient. The SST section feels like a bullet-control, a [illegible] sportscar. Meaty, solid and fun, screaming the EVO's potential is easier to access for most people, more of the time compared to the STI which requires a higher skill level to extract maximum performance.

Pick up your weapons grade [illegible]

Lorenzo secures world Moto GP championship

By Alvin Uy

SHARLIN JOBOY Lorenzo secured the Moto GP world championship title after finishing third in the Shell Advance Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently.

Celebrating 20 years of world-class motorcycle racing since it first hosted the World Championship in 1992, Malaysia has played host to MotoGP in since 1999. Its two other venues were in Shah Alam and Johor.

In a week-to-week challenging motorcycle spectacle, the 23-year-old Yamaha rider claimed third position even as his teammate Valentino Rossi took his first season victory since this year's two-season-leg-pass in Qatar.

On pole position, Lorenzo had a great start but his Italian teammate, fought for a race victory, came from behind after starting out on 11th position in a storming upset victory that led Rossi every Malaysian fans screaming for more in the last fateful laps in a thrilling finish.

Last year's Malaysian MotoGP winner Casey Stoner of Ducati Team suffered a huge disappointment when his crashed out of the race on the opening lap. Repsol Honda's Andrea Dovizioso valiantly tried to wrestle with Rossi but pressed a bit too close on Rossi's extended series of his fastest laps as the two swapped first and second positions in what was a thrilling fight to the end.

Last October 15th, all eyes on Casey Stoner of Ducati team Italian Andrea Dovizioso in the fourth season-ending race, the Aussie Australian GP for the fourth consecutive year, ahead of Lorenzo and Valentino Rossi, the world's best bet proved a bit too slow as Stoner pummeled some of the fastest laps as the two swapped first and second positions in what was a thrilling fight to the end.

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A Sunday kind of car

IF YOU'RE the kind of person who doesn't like to be stared at, don't drive a sports car. And by no means should you drive a retractable top. BMW Z4 roadster with the top down, even on a Sunday.

The aluminum two-piece retractable hardtop of the 2010 Z4 folds down or goes up in 20 seconds when you press a button on the console, enabling it easily to drive convertible-style. Not that it's practical to drive the Z4 with the top down in Metro Manila or anywhere, given the hot sunny weather, air pollution, smoke-belching vehicles all around and increased crime rate.

Because of our driving and road conditions, you would enjoy the Z4 more with the top up on a special, hassle-free day like a holiday or non-working holiday. The Z4 is a Sunday kind of car whose gorgeous, classical sports-car styling, powertrain, perfect craftsmanship and P6 million price tag make it too precious and rather impractical to use as your daily commute. Being a roadster with only two seats and very limited cargo space makes the Z4 exquisitely impractical for family use.

2 in 1. On the other hand, the second generation, 2010 Z4 is more practical than the first Z4 which was offered either as a hardtop coupe or as a cloptop convertible, take your pick. With the retractable hardtop, you get two in one. The new Z4 is six inches longer and weighs 700 pounds more because of the retractable hardtop, but that is counterbalanced by 40 more horsepower.

Moreover, the new Z4's cockpit is more spacious than the outgoing model with an inch or so more shoulder room and elbow room. The leather-lined interior is more elegant with added storage space offered by door pockets, a narrow panel shelf behind the seats, a central padded armrest with two cupholders underneath and space for a mobile phone, instead of a handbrake, there is a small electronic parking brake button occupying less space.

With the top up, 11 cubic feet of cargo room is available but with the top folded into the trunk, this is reduced to just 4.6 cubic feet. However, you can load golf clubs or other long items since there is an integrated pass-through. Intrepid! Just remember to fasten your seatbelt.

Specs. The test unit I drove was a Z4 sDrive 20i powered by a naturally aspirated 2.0 liter, in-line 4-cylinder aluminum engine, same as the BMW 320i sedan's, with output peaking at 258 hp/ 6,600 rpm and 310 Nm/ 2,500 rpm max torque. Mated to a 6-speed sport automatic transmission (AT) with Steptronic, the engine has an electronically limited top speed of 234 kph and zooms from standstill to 100 kph in less than 7 seconds. These performance specs are alright for a luxurious, user-friendly roadster like the Z4 20i.

Z4 has just as exciting as those of the Porsche Boxster S and the Mercedes-Benz SLK.

See SnC Autoit Corporation's Cindy, the director and distributor of BMW, does not offer the twin turbo, 306 hp 3.0 sDrive 35i with 7-speed dual clutch AT (but its convertible with deep pockets can gain access to the super sports car capabilities of the 2.5 liter engine by buying the BMW 135i coupe (294.59 mHorse), which has the same powertrain) and which Autoit Corporation has in stock. I really can't forget the exhilarating experience of driving the 135i coupe last July.

Back to the Z4 sDrive 20i. I got it to rev up to 200 kph on the relatively traffic-free Skyway although it didn't (couldn't) to 100 kph or maximum speed as the 135i coupe did. On the road, despite the 245 impressible fit and finish, you hear some creaking and rattling because of the retractable hardtop's hard-wear mechanisms. Driving the Z4 at high speeds even around corners gives you confidence because it feels solid and well-planted with its added weight and the handling is nimble, true to the BMW tradition of rear drive/ front engine steering precision and synchronicity.

2 Settings. Dynamic Driving Control (DDC) allows you to choose from three settings: Normal mode, which suits highway cruising or stop-and-go traffic; Sport mode, which quickens the throttle response, makes the steering more direct and keeps the 42 to lower gear to optimize the engine's power and Sport + mode which speeds up the shift action, tightens the suspension and activates the Dynamic Traction Control (DTC) and Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) to prevent wheelspin.

Aside from EDC, DTC and DSC, the Z4 is equipped with Cornering Brake, six airbags, Roll Over Protection System, 400 cm dia 18-inch alloy wheels, run-flat tires with run-flat indicator...all safety features expected of a BMW roadster.

Bottomline, the Z4 is not a hardcore sports car but an adequately powered two-seater road cruiser offering a quite civilized, comfortable ride, a beautiful interior, the unique sense of a retractable hardtop and traffic-shopping-good looks with the top up or down. The Z4 is a joy to look at and a joy to drive, whether at NAIA's roundup.

SOS, MOT SE. Filipinas Shell Petroleum sells diesel fuel with 500 ppm sulfur content, the Euro-2 level. In my column last week, it was erroneously printed as 50 ppm, the Euro IV standard.

The Z4 sDrive 20i is now a hardcore sports car but an adequately powered two-seater road cruiser.

FROM left, the cockpit with the top up, the 2-liter, inline-4 cylinder engine and the cockpit with the top down.

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Honda, Toyota, Hyundai greenest automakers

By Yeva R. Salazar

SCRIPPED OF all the marketing hoopla and commercial propaganda, which automakers are really walking the green mile? The answer to this question may require more than a motoring buff's trained eye (and ears and nose, for that matter). If pollution can be defined pro molecule, per decibel, then the ones who would truly know are the ones who know how to measure sound environmental parameters—none by true aroma, from one chemical reaction to another.

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) based in the United States released earlier this month its latest Automaker Rankings report evaluating the environmental performances of the eight largest automakers' vehicle fleets. Results were adjudged the Greenest Automakers—edging out Toyota and Hyundai who are tied at second place.

UCS focused on the eight automakers that together account for 82 percent of model year (MY) 2008 vehicle sales in the United States. The latest ranking forms part of UCS' 2010 consumer vehicle scientific rankings.

In the order of greenest to least green, here are the rankings of the eight manufacturers: Honda (which scores for 13 percent of market share); Toyota (16 percent of market share); and Hyundai (3 percent); Volkswagen (2 percent); Nissan (7 percent); Ford (16 percent); General Motors (22 percent); Chrysler (11 percent).

The report noted that four vehicles from three Top Eight automakers accounted for approximately 50 percent of best-weighting emissions and 50 percent of smog-forming emissions from new light-duty vehicles in 2008.

Aside from ranking overhead, ranking results, impact of hybrids on automakers' smog and global warming scores, smog-forming emissions results, global warming emissions results, average smog-forming emissions and average global warming emissions by automaker and class, UCS also came out with key recommendations for each carmaker.

This hasn't been the first time Honda, Toyota and Hyundai-Kia left Detroit's Big Three (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) in their (dense) dust in the UCS rankings. The three automakers have also held on to their respective UCS rankings in the previous 2007, and 2008 greenest automakers rankings. Honda (first), Toyota (second) and Hyundai (third). This is Honda's fifth consecutive Greenest Automaker award from UCS.

Objectively measured

Using government data on 600,000 vehicles—the latest for which final data is now available—and screening each manufacturer based on the actual smog-forming and global warming emissions of its vehicle fleet, UCS' report objectively measured each automaker's product offerings' true environmental performance.

UCS' Clean Vehicles Program senior engineer Jim Kliesch's "The Automaker Rankings 2010: The Environmental Performance of Car Companies" is the Union's fifth evaluation for major automakers in the United States, and according to him, it "is continuing project that we have been conducting for 10 years. As in the preceding reports, the current study assesses the relative environmental performances of the leading automakers based on the most recent data available about their product lines. Selling a modest number of clean and efficient models is not sufficient to gain the designation of green automaker; the best scores go to those that show strong environmental performance across their product lines. Thus, the rankings reflect the average emissions of global warming and smog-forming pollutants from the entire fleet of each automaker's offerings."

The report continued: "Stronger periodic global warming standards for each Top Eight automaker are calculated as a function of the fuel economy, fuel type, and miles of each vehicle type sold by the automakers in 2012-2016. The global warming emissions considered include both tailpipe emissions and upstream emissions from the production and distribution of fuel, which together account for more than 80 percent of a vehicle's lifetime global warming emissions. A sales-weighted average emissions level is calculated for each manufacturer, and an industry average of the eight manufacturers combined is computed as well."

UCS was founded in 1969 by faculty and students of the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (one of UCS' founders was physicist and Nobel laureate Dr. Henry Kendall).

Honda Cars' eco-alliance in RP

Honda Cars Philippines, automobile revealed its global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions targets for 2010 during an Oct. 22 environmental forum on sustainable mobility at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Pasay City.

HCPI and general manager presidente Harold Dimaano reported that Honda had already achieved a 29-percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions since 2006, equivalent to about 11,000 tons of CO2 in five years.

Despite the higher vehicle production, HCPI was still able to reduce total carbon dioxide emissions. Among HCPI's energy conservation and waste reduction programs, Dimaano made special mention of the company's use of recyclable packaging materials for parts imports, which saved more than 1,000 tons of packaging in the last three years.

Also present at the forum were representatives and officers of the United Nations Development Program, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Asian Institute of Management, the Philippine Business for the Environment, the Philippine Automotive Federation Inc. and Hasbros.

In marking 20 years of operations in the country, Honda also formed the Blue Skies Alliance with government agencies and Hasbros Foundation.

See more at http://www.inquirer.net/specialfeatures/motoring/index.php?d=2010&m=10&p=1&id=1&t=Honda,+Toyota,+Hyundai+greenest+automakers

THE KEN Block DC merchandise showcased at the recent Ford Expo

Ken a Ford Lately?

By Alvee Uy

DC SHOES and Primer Group recently announced the official release in the Philippines of the October 2010 Ken Block collection with collaborative works between DC, Ken Block and designer Herb Goo in footwear, apparel and accessories featuring the cure-proof drip pattern logos featured on Ken's rally race-prepared Ford Fiesta. Celebrating its release, DC and Ford Philippines recently unveiled the Ken Block Collection along with other launches of Ken Block's Ford Fiesta rally car replica dubbed as the "Ford Expo" held in SM Mall of Asia's open grounds. The replica rally car was expertly executed by Jerry Bodykits, with wheels provided by Concept One.

Exclusively distributed in the country by the Primer Group, DC Shoes was founded by Ken Block and Damon Way in 1993. The brand quickly grew to a modest leader in performance skateboarding shoes and so an action sports brand. Ken Block's notoriety took the automotive world by storm after the release of his first of three gymkhana videos in YouTube. Gymkhana is a type of motorsport that is similar to autocross, but gymkhana courses are often very complex and features obstacles like cars and barrels. The gymkhana driver must maneuver through a predetermined route or performing some different driving techniques like 180 and 360 degree spins, parking, brakes, donuts, figure eight and other drift maneuvers.

Last January, Block joined with Ford in the World Rally Championship (WRC) driving both a Ford Fiesta and Focus RS. On September 16, 2010, Block's third Gymkhana video, featuring him driving his modified Ford Fiesta, was released on YouTube.

The video got more than seven million views in its first week.

THE KEN Block DC merchandise showcased at the recent Ford Expo

ONE of the Ken Block T-shirt designs with the iconic drip design

THE KEN Block Ford Fiesta WRC replica car was unveiled in the recent Ford Expo at Mall of Asia

DC's Ken Block Collection arrives in Manila

THE KEN Block rubber shoes with the drip design and skull and crown boot logo of Ken's Car.

MOTORING

Safety and maintenance tips for new drivers

By Botchi Santos

THE BIGGEST problem we now face on the road is that cheaper petrol by people who tend to just bound their vehicles and drive without thinking, not knowing the basics of driving safely and sound, do not practice proper maintenance of their cars.

Here are some helpful tips everyone can remember:

1.) When your vehicle stalls/stops for reasons like a flat tire or an engine breakdown, try to move and push it on the nearest side, lane or shoulder of the road—most people don't bother trying to move their car out of lanes's way when the breakdown occurs on the inner or middle lane. This not only puts you and your car at risk, but causes massive traffic jams, often backing up the pile-up of traffic for miles on end. You'll be surprised at the amount of people willing to pump in and help you out.

2.) Turn on your hazard lights, and don't forget to position your yellow-and-red early-warning devices at least 30 meters away from your car—there's a reason why the DWDs should be placed that far and the hazard lights should be activated; it's to give adequate time and space for fast cars and drivers to slow down safely and avoid you and your car parked on the side of the road.

3.) Should your vehicle break down late at night, park your car in a well-lit place so other motorists can see you—often times, stalled vehicles cause many subsequent accidents because they are unseen and parked in poorly lit places by the roadside. Being parked in a well-lit place also deters potential robbers and hoodlets in preying on you further.

4.) Once parked and you are unable to perform maintenance or repair work on a car, move a safe distance away to keep you in that area from harm's way—many people sit inside their automobile can. As this is dangerous, step a good distance away (at least 10 meters) just in case a speeding car is unable to see and avoid your stalled vehicle. If you're sitting inside and your car gets hit, you can get seriously injured or worse, even lose your life.

5.) Observe all the emergency lane, shoulders and curbs on your normal traffic routes—along Edsa these are emergency bays situated in the middle, underneath the Edsa MRT3 tunnels. Take mental note of such middle emergency bays so in case you unwittingly find yourself in a situation where you'll know where to park.

6.) Take note of all the emergency vehicle recovery or towing services, police, first-aid hospital, etc. and save them into your mobile phone. In case you find yourself stranded, you know who to call so you don't panic.

7.) Be a member of those vehicle recovery service clubs like the Automobile Association of the Philippines and Wheelen which only charge an annual fee that is usually a lot than a single towing recovery fee for your vehicle, and you're covered for any minor (not already) accidents.

8.) Check your car every week—check the engine oil level on your car's dip stick, it should be close to full or full, and check the color of it is gold and opaque or very black; if it's the latter you need to change it as well as the coil filter already. Check also the brake and clutch fluid levels and colors. Hydraulic fluid is slightly yellow and opaque in color, if it is darker, that means it is dirty and needs to be flushed out and changed. Dirty brake fluid will hamper your braking performance. And make sure they are topped up as well otherwise performance will be compromised. Likewise, check your radiator. If the coolant level is low, top it up only with distilled water and coolant; never use tap water or mineral water. If there's rust or any solid formation floating in the coolant, flush it out and replace with coolant and distilled water only.

9.) Change the oil parts. If you can't remember when the last time you had your timing belt and hydraulic belts inspected, belts changed, changed them now since it is cheap insurance against vehicular breakdown and costly engine damage. If you also can't remember when was the last time you flushed out your coolant, change the thermostat and radiator cap along with the coolant. Mention how to also check your tires. If they are worn, have anyone else worn out on soft, bring them to a workout alignment shop so the technicians can determine if you just need to sit them up, perform a proper workout alignment or already in dire need of replacement. Your tires are the only part of your vehicle that touch the road so make sure they are in proper working order and don't forget to check the condition and tire pressure of the spare tire. I have seen so many instances when the owner took out a spare tire only to replace their flat tire with another flat tire.

10.) Make sure to have the following inside your car at all times—complete set of working tools, a wrench and jack, a pair of early warning devices (EWDs), a powerful flashlight with spare batteries, a towing cable or rope, jumper cables, rain-resisting clothes or an set to cater your clothes, an old mat or towel to sit on, workman's gloves to work around the engine bay without getting your hands dirty or burned and a 1-gallon bottle or more of distilled water for drinking, topping up your coolant level in the radiator and to wash up.

11.) On a long drive, bring some spares. Some people bring extra spark plugs, oil filters and air filters, extra belts in case they suffer a repairable breakdown on the long road away from home.

12.) Take a break after two hours of non-stop driving. Continued driving is very difficult, tiring and draining. Short breaks will help invigorate you and wake you up.

13.) Don't get too comfortable behind the wheel. The cut seat of the driver is not a lazy boy's seat. Sit as upright as much as possible to keep you alert, awake and you'll get sleepy.

14.) Have a bottle of your favorite drink, preferably water on long drives—the oxygen in water helps you wake up, clears your tired eyes and rehydrates your body allowing you to concentrate on your driving better.

15.) Driving in changing light such as dusk or dawn is difficult; wearing polarized sunglasses help—polarized lenses help transmit only better through harsh glare because it is filtered out through the polarized lenses, and it helps preserve your eye's health too!

16.) Rest well before driving—make sure you've had a good night's sleep, or took a power nap before embarking on a long drive. Also, avoid driving late at night or in the wee hours of the morning, to lessen the safety risk of driving.

Remember, when you drive, you not only take your life in your own hands, but the lives of the people in your car, the other motorists on the road and the pedestrians on the side of the road. So keep it safe and sober.

Looking at the powertrain dilemma with fresh eyes

Text and photos by Charles E. Bukan

WHEN it seems that the days of the internal combustion engine might be coming to an end, Mazda Motor engineers are able to also move a out of this venerable powerplant.

SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES—BY looking at things with fresh eyes, one would actually find new solutions to old problems. In fact, some surprising results may come out of it.

Case in point: Mazda Motor Corporation.

While the rest are busy on desk electric vehicles and hybrids to meet higher fuel economy requirements in the future, the company is automaker "dinosaur" driver is still ready to be done with the traditional internal combustion engine.

For Mazda, its not quite correct still yet for the venerable powerplant that was first developed some three decades ago.

If they do find a solution, they would not only succeed in reducing car emissions but also skip the part where a car company would spend a considerable amount of money for the necessary infrastructure for manufacturing changes, the need to increase their upcoming car's price tag as a result of the investment, or to change the driving habits of their customers.

"Today, I am proud to announce that through Mazda's dream and representative dr. rocket, announced during the Mazda Business Forum that the upcoming Mazda2 (that will be sold initially in Japan) will be the first to be equipped with the next-generation highly efficient direct-injection gasoline engine—called the Skyactiv-G.

The Skyactiv-G, which is 10 percent more fuel efficient than its current counterpart will be as efficient as its would-be rival, the hybrid version of Honda Jazz (with this rating, the Skyactiv-equipped Mazda2 is even closer to the 30kpl fuel efficiency that the third generation Toyota Prius has set).

"But our promise to offer the Odachi! at a much lower price than its rival hybrids," added Mr. Matsuoka who declined to elaborate on how much the Skyactiv Mazda2 will be priced.

With the development, Mazda successful also said, Mazda Motor is expected to further improve its current (estimated) global sales of 1.25 million units.

While Mazda engineers expanded as among the most advanced innovations in internal combustion engine and weight reduction technology, the company also clarified that it also intends to sell vehicles that combine hybrid systems through its partnership with Toyota) with its next-generation gasoline engine in Japan by 2013.

Iwata Kanai, who is in charge of Mazda's research and development and program management, explained that their engineers employed a 4-2-1 exhaust system, cavity pistons, multi-hole injectors and other innovations to enable the Skyactiv-G to deliver a compression ratio of 14.0:1—the world's highest for a production gasoline engine—and still provided the unusual knocking that befuddled other engineers for years.

The new engine will be mated Mazda's Skyactiv Drive, a newly developed six-speed automatic transmission, which by itself is expected to improve fuel economy by 5 percent (compared to Mazda's current automatic six-speed).

Kanai said apart from the fuel efficiency it could contribute, the Skyactiv Drive is designed to achieve a direct performance feel like that of a dual clutch transmission.

Mazda's technology push also included a new lightweight manual transmission dubbed Skyactiv MT.

Designed for front-engine, front-wheel drive vehicles, Mazda Powertrain Development Division staff manager Eiichi Ito said the unit is smaller and lighter than competing units, has reduced internal friction that help increase fuel economy while offering sports-car like shift feel similar to that of Mazda's sports car, the RX-8.

Another engine that Mazda Motor unveiled is the Skyactiv-D, a new-generation clean diesel engine that is 20 percent more fuel efficient than its current counterparts and meets global emissions regulations without the use of expensive add-on exhaust aftertreatments.

Tomotoschi said Mazda's engine designers were able to make the engine to attain a compression ratio of 14.0:1—the lowest ever employed by a diesel engine—thus, enabling Mazda to skip the employment of expensive urea selective catalytic reduction or the Lean NOx Trap that add cost.

Kanai also explained that despite the low compression ratio the diesel that usually leads to unstable combustion during cold idle (which not only cause rough running but also increase in harmful emissions), Mazda engineers eliminated the Skyactiv-D's problem on unusual odor that is added to the exhaust gas in order to avoid all these problems.

"When activated, the second lube family opens out of main cylinder's two exhaust valves directed to the combustion chamber.

As for exhaust gas is sucked into the combustion chamber, this raises the temperature enough to ensure stable and efficient combustion," Kanai explained.

At a result, the Skyactiv-D engine can easily pass the most stringent global emissions regulations namely Euro6 in Europe, Tier2Bin5 in North America and the Post New Long Term Regulations in Japan.

Exporting Mechatronics

I WAS honored to be invited to the Fourth Commencement Exercises of the 10-PGA Cars Porsche Training and Recruitment Center. Asia scholars who finished in a nine-month training program to be globally certified Porsche Mechatronics, others as Porsche-speak means: duly certified service technicians. To this day Porsche is the only global premium brand automotive company that offers a training and recruitment center for the youth outside of their home country and hopefully other manufacturers will follow suit.

I felt proud as select graduates gave a speech, thanking God almighty, founder, PGA Cars and the Cayton family for having given them an opportunity to live a better life, to the pursuit of happiness. An even greater sense of pride swelled within me as Diego Lopez, Porsche Latin America, After Sales Director, informed guests that four out of the 10 graduates were awarded the Porsche Scholarship. And hopes was quick to point out that he hopes the Latin America operations can source out more qualified Porsche Mechatronics in the coming years.

Amazing stuff indeed, knowing that Filipinos are now globally recognized for their skills and knowledge. To date, three program, which started back in 2008 in conjunction with Don Bosco Technical has had 58 graduates and even a female Filipina Porsche certified mechatronic that is employed by PGA Cars Porsche. The vast majority of mechanics have found employment in the burgeoning Middle East where almost everyone is a sheikh or the son of one, is a billionaire and is looking for an expensive plaything. In the past, Mike Cui of British Control recommended, who used to visit Dubai regularly in the past often told me that Filipinos are the preferred car, chances of rich and powerful oil-drilling sheikhs who maintain a very large stable of very fine and fast vehicles. Something to ponder as self-proud dare.

And PGA Cars Porsche isn't the only member of the motoring industry that's working on getting certified service technicians trained and sent abroad. Business lessons Japan Automotive Training Center in Cagayan de Oro will soon be training much more BMW certified service personnel and be sent abroad, hopefully increasing their overall global competitiveness, bring in more dollars for our economy and ultimately help propel our economy forward.

SKID MARKS

Eiichi Sonobe

It is interesting to note that the mass market car manufacturers have yet to do something similar, but as a Japanese car executive told me previously, the Japanese would for mass-market brands) engaged in tasks harnessing and servicing in various countries are different: the latter lower-usually comes from the country where it operates out of, hence the need to support skilled workmen becomes redundant. For example, Thailand is the Detroit of Asean, and has a huge and highly skilled labor force. Their currency rate is so dose-enough to the Peso and labor cost is similar as well. There is no need to bring in Filipinos to do a Thai's job.

But for high-end brands like Porsche, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, particularly distributors located in very industrialized and vehicle-conscious markets like the Middle East, it makes sense to import a skilled technician because not only their costs are lower, but our technical skills and competence, not to mention our English proficiency skills are at par, if not better than what the world has to offer.

Hopefully, luxury car brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Land Rover/Jaguar and MINI will soon launch a similar program to help our economy and our country become much more globally competitive. It is the interest of a car companies to build the very best cars they can build at the best possible selling price, but it is in the interest of these very same car companies to give back to the community in which they establish roots with other stake-holders. Don't give them fish, but teach them how to fish.

As for PGA, I do hope they find a bigger venue to train more deserving Filipino youth to be globally certified Porsche Mechatronics.

The Do-All . . .

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not hard on the eyes, and the center console is the seat of all power modes, and with a switch left (8 mode), or right (the hyper 3P mode), or push ("I" or intelligent mode) of the knob, all your driving needs are satisfied. And you know that, whether you're pushing the space in such how Mahal-mile, highway, to achieve easy speed on the Star Tollway, these uses literally characteristics of the new Impreza truly hands drive confidence.

We also commend the sports type boss seats, which offer excellent lateral support. The 60:40 split folding rear seats add to the hatch's interior versatility.

But allow this writer to dwell more on her favorite feature of the Impreza XV... the one which lends triple personality to the vehicle, the X-Mode or Inteligent drive. The "I" or Intelligent mode provides the most efficient and optimal fuel-efficiency, the sport (S) mode is for the versatile command of virtually any driving condition, while the Sport Sharp mode (SP) gives the most direct throttle response and precise rev control across the entire rpm range for the most agile drive. This X-Mode function, as well, are the dual-clip sidebraces on the aluminum pedals.

The hatch, true to its daily-drive design, gives one a comfortable ride, which is a number for control of such responsive handling.

We drove this hatch on an varied ground as possible—from the billion-peso paved roads of Mandaluyong to the soft, muddy trails of Silang, Cavite, and saw the fun and value of all-wheel-driving (and which may have led to the hatch's name) on our respective trips. AWDs as they could play to the mud). The author did some research on the science of the Impreza's AWD, and found out that the 5-speed AT has been paired with the variable torque distribution (VTD) system. Automatically distributes the engine's torque to all four wheels for intense traction and control in changing conditions, while focusing on the rear wheels for sporty handling and responsive steering. The electronically controlled 5-speed transmission also features manual-mode shifting via steering-wheel mounted paddle shifters. From 0 to 100 kph was a sprint seconds, on flat, paved road.

The Subaru Impreza WRX STI 5-speed AT hatch is proud, indeed, that the carmaker is race brands in the past. The brand is on an all-new Impreza WRX STI model for the hatch, its potential as a tuners' and performance car maker can be best realized. The hatch merges the rally bred power that propelled Subaru to fame, with the carriers, manoeuvres and smarts of everyday driving that will make it rendezvous for "Subaru legends".

The car comes in a full choice of browns, to name the rather limited number of dealer-ships that can ably service Subaru. Motor Image Philippines only has two for Luzon (Alabang-Greenhills, and in Cebu). Dr. Jesus assures would be buyers, however, that at least three more dealerships have been planned to be opened in 2013. One somewhere in Makati, another in San Fernando, Pampanga, and the third in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

But a comprehensive price list of all available Subaru vehicles, log on to www.subaru.com.ph. Also, for those who are shy, we strongly urge would-be buyers to consider the cost of ownership of Subaru vehicles, not just the one-time price tag. Motor Image Philippines has a comprehensive Preventive Maintenance Cost Guide ready for consumers. Ask for your copy by e-mailing query@motorimage.net or calling 727-8333.

Customers take center stage as NMPI marks 28th year

NMPI has introduced the X-Trail CVT, Teana and Sentra 200 in a span of five months.

TO SAY ALL NISSAN vehicles are worthy of carrying pronoun for its loyal customers, and a new dealership, proof of Nissan Motor Philippines' love are 8 marks to 2013 year in the Philippines.

Indeed, 2013 has proved to be a milestone for the company. In a span of five months, NMPI has introduced the Sentra200, X-Trail CVT and Teana to fulfill its mission "to delight our customers' needs in quality, performance and safety, while ensuring to include the 'Fun to drive!' element in their line-up.

"NMPI has come a long way since it began in the Philippines in 1986. But while we continuously challenge our selves in improving business practices and processes, our commitment remains the same: to provide Filipinos with quality products, and highly knowledgeable customer service and customer care," said its president and CEO Hiroi Otani.

Introduced in April, the Sentra200 has reinvented sedans with its updated look, advanced technology and since parcel amenities that makes it perfect for both work and play.

Two months later, NMPI launched the new X-Trail CVT. Also featuring the XTRONIC CVT, it's powered by a 2.0-liter engine (QR20DE) that delivers 170 hp and maximum torque of 196Nm.

Her precision, NMPI followed this up with the launch of the company's Big-ship model, the Teana of the Philippine International Motor Show last August.

As NMPI's premium sedan, the Teana comes the most advanced and world-renowned technology, refreshed styling cues from its predecessor, and superior amenities that today's executives appreciate.

It is powered by the world's award-winning VQ 3.5L engine. In addition to its dual-mind like airbags seat, the Teana engine also incorporated the world's first hydrogen-free valve lifter that provides ill percent less surface friction for more fuel efficiency and smoother drive-trip.

Promos

Apart from these all-new vehicles, NMPI will also cater its loyal customers with various promotions including the "Nissan Buy One, Win One," promo wherein every purchase of a Nissan vehicle will give their customers a chance to win a Sentra Elegance, X-Trail or Grand Livina Elite.

Owners of previous Sentra models are also offered sweet, new encouragement to join the "Sth and 5th Sentra" plans contest, and "The Longest Running Service" wherein the owners of the Nissan Sentra with the highest mileage will have a chance to take home an entertainment set. Prospective customers were also be given a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime weekend pass by just dropping by the full service X-Trail CVT in the dealerships nationwide.

To complete its 28th anniversary treat, NMPI also announced the opening of its first major auto dealership in Bataan.

In partnership with one of the biggest auto dealerships in the country, the Lear Auto Group, Nissan Bataan will be the sixth point of the Nissan Clark Yarlac Expressway (NCEX), to take advantage of the province's growing as one of the most progressive investment destinations.

CHEN: Nissan's customer satisfaction rating has been high.

1982

NMPI's history dates back to 1982, when it was then known as Filipinas Nissan Inc.

Just one year from its establishment, the company began its full commercial operations, rolling off its first locally assembled Nissan car, the Nissan Stanza, at its Quezon City plant.

It was in 1995 when the company changed its name to NMPI and became the exclusive manufacturer and distributor of Nissan passenger cars, recreational vehicles, multi-purpose vehicles, sports utility vehicles, and sports car in the local market.

Today, NMPI is considered among the industry's key players boasting a sprawling 236,450 sq.m. assembly plant located in Cavite, Rizal, Laguna.

Known for having one of the most extensive dealerships in the country, NMPI takes pride in the fact that each and every Nissan provides its customers the same total quality pre-sales and after-sales service, even as compared to Nissan dealerships in other countries.

In fact, in the 2010 Philippines Sales Satisfaction Index Study recently released by JD Power Asia Pacific, Nissan is one of only two car manufacturers that improved in rating this year, and one of the top five companies which scored above the total industry average.

"Our customer satisfaction rating has been consistently high and the feedbacks that our service from customers are usually positive and satisfactory. We've maintained our focus in training our people, improving systems and equipping our technologies to ensure that all our customers are offered top-notch quality," Otani said.

Believing that its role does not end with the purchase of a vehicle, NMPI's service extends to life-long customer support... called Total Solutions offering—in addition to the usual free maintenance service—its customers great value-and-long lasting vehicles.

Past and Furious

AT THE Chevy Motorama (above), TCCC offers raffle prizes for Chevy buyers with raffle stubs in the form of stickers in its Pontiac Priz-yer racer (left).

By Alvin Uy

THE COVENANT Car Company Inc. (TCCCI) sent Chevy fans reeling down the memory lane when it recently held its first-ever Chevy Motorama at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City to what was touted as the grandest single brand Chevy car display west of the river. It was an event meant for people of all ages, as Chevy owners (and non-owners, be smart, car enthusiasts and even kids since TCCCI came up with all sorts of pro-sumer activities, reminiscent of the Motorama car shows held throughout the 50'ers.

"We came up with the Chevy Motorama event so as to relive the era of the Chevy heroes and would be Chevy heroes to gather under one roof and enjoy all things they love about Chevy!" shared by Lyn H. Bueno, director for marketing services division for TCCCI. "Our commitment to the public to provide them with worry-free after sales services, special ownership packages and outstanding customer satisfaction made these pioneers and couples that Hitherto was converged to this event," Bueno added.

Chevrolet and The Covenant Car Company bring back the GM Motorama of the 50's

BANDS kept playing all throughout the evening.

Detail of the eight GM Motoramas cars shown staged by Chevrolet Motors all over the United States from 1949 to 1954 which have done to 18 million visitors.

A blast from the automotive past

The GM Motoramas were auto shows staged by General Motors makers of Chevrolet. It was 1949 to 1961. A total of eight GM Motorama were held during the period. Over to 10 million visitors went to all these shows and its number close to 1949 was held in ten cities—New York and Boston. This was a time when the auto industry was just recovering from the effects of World War II. All production facilities were dedicated for the war effort and the designs of automobiles at that time did not change much. There was a resurgence in the demand for cars after WW II and GM realized that it had to showcase new designs and some futuristic concepts for it to emerge.

In 1953 Motorama, GM began to feature its futuristic dream cars as it opened its exhibitions to the public at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City. This year also, where GM introduced the quintessential Autoclean dream car—the Corvette. Aside from this, Chevrolet also unveiled the Wildcat, Le Mans and Sportlet models. Chevy's dream cars served as an automotive designer's compass to the future and it saw these events as forums to gauge public reactions on its futuristic designs and new-fangled gizmos, making each Motorama more elaborate than the ones before.

THE FAST and the future. Sharing the spotlight is the classic and the new Camaro.

GM discovers the television

On the evening of Jan. 29, 1955, the Motorama saw a young Dick Hope hosting a special on TV previews, taking millions of Americans viewers through an elaborately staged exhibition. Using an 80-foot stage in the Waldorf dioramas, the production opened with all of GM's cars. Displayed on steel arms that swung out of a 10-foot chord of flashbooster, the cars hovered above an 800-square foot pool of water for public view.

Back to the future

Last week at the SM Mall of Asia, aside from getting big discounts and freebies from Chevrolet dealerships, visitors of the Chevy Motorama saw the latest line up of Chevrolet vehicles including the all-new Spark. The new sub-compact will be launched in the market sometime early 2011. Spark's car on display were the Chevy Coast BHTC custom as well as a replica of the classic "Bumblebee" of the Transformers fame alongside the all-new 2010 Camaro. Two cosplay characters in the guise of Optimus Prime and the transformed Bumblebee were also present all throughout the event, much to the delight of the visitors who brought their kids along to check out the displays. Rarah kept playing throughout the evenings.

During the event, Chevrolet Philippines, in partnership with the Macro Government Tractors Office and Sad Rock Travel, offered a special travel package prize to a lucky Chevrolet buyer at Chevy Motorama. It was an all-expense paid Siberia Grand Prix Package including airfare, a 4-day/3-night stay plus 2-day tickets to the Macau Grand Prix, including the World Touring Car Championship (WTCC). Chevrolet is the 2009 WTCC manufacturer's champion and the Chevrolet Cruze World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) Race Team owner to be coming in the auto-showcase with several wins on its belt. With the new Red and Aveo's rounds of the current WTCC season in store, Chevrolet will defend its lead in the team's Manufacturer Standings.

THE COSPLAY Bumblebee poses with the classic Camaro Bumblebee, an attraction not only in addition to car aficionados as well.

Winner of the Chevy Motorama event also able to get the best deals on purchase of vehicles through the Chevy Harvest Plans. Promo offering zero percent interest plans with both 50 percent and below 50 percent down payment, all on packages with low down payments, as low as 20% down for a five-year payment holiday promo (for 50 percent down with a 60-month payment term) at 4.5% monthly.

The Chevy Motorama was made possible in partnership with Discovery Channel, Inbox TO, Metro Magazine, New Balance Shoes, Peltron, Red Rock Travel, SM Discovery Center, SM Mall of Asia, Top Gear Philippines and Vans Manila. For more details, visit www.chevy.com.ph.

Keeping the motorsports fever burning

By Charles E. Bulan

REMEMBER THE time when you always challenged your fellow kid neighbors to a race ahead your three-wheeled Kiddie bike? Ever wondered why you may way ghazi to the endurance every time there's offroading I can't?

Indeed, we were born competitive and competition is a part of the human experience. We compete against our co-office in shared every aspect of life such as in school (based on a grading system), socially (by the number of friends or contacts we have on Facebook), even in our careers.

So it was no surprise to see the country's legendary names in car racing meeting once more in the first leg of Race of Champions event held in Batangas for big Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, recently.

It was a reunion of sort, perhaps to see who still has the edge if not find for themselves if the new cast-ready car from Chevrolet really makes the race.

And why not? We race cars to see who can build and steer the fastest if not the toughest car. We race cars to prove if all its parts will perform in extreme situations.

Push the limits

"There's no better way to prove your products worth than use it tested on race tracks. Drivers will push the limits of their cars so they need every part of their car working perfectly. If these components could work in extreme conditions, you can more confident in making them to your customers," said Sachin Arora, Director of Marketing Division of the official wheel (Concept Car brand) and tires (Nitto and Bridgestone) used for the ROC event.

Organized by the Automobile Association of the Philippines in cooperation with Groupe Chevrolet and Chevrolet Philippines, the yearly event's theme is "Fia Masters Race Engineering built Chevrolet Cruze. Fitted with Concept Gear wheels and Nitto Tires.

Without doubt, The Covenant Car Company Inc., General Motor Southeast Asia's appointed exclusive importer and distributor of Chevrolet automobiles and parts in the Philippines, is pulling out all the stops to bring everything the brand has to offer.

Progressive response

Even as the company believes its overall image for the marketplace during public. TCCCI has caused its attention towards car racing as part of the positive change and more progressive response that the Chevy brand wants to improve its consumers.

The Cruze was launched in the Philippines in February, 2010 with the 1.8-liter gasoline engine or TCCCI's first product offering since it took over the Philippine distribution of Chevrolet vehicles.

Setting up the Cruze for racing is no big surprise for the car brand considering that the Chevrolet Lacetti was dashed by Billy Dunsiz and Lance Dawsdell, a race car designer and driver.

Race-ready

With the new-ready Cruze, TCCCI hopes to bring its country's motor sports the same strength and presence that the Chevy brand commands in the likes of the National Association for Stock Car Racing (Nascar) in the United States or the popular World Touring Car Championship, where the car also competes.

And so we close this biggest interest in local motor sports story supported during the first leg of the ROC Manila Eliquin, Jojo Silvestre, Racing Models, Eddy Addison, Louie Ramirez, Edgen Dy-Liacco, Ivan Isada, Popong Acdelosang, Paul Ong, Alex Perez and even Crane's official celebrity endorser, Ryan Agoncillo were all available.

The racers satisfied would probably be Georges Ramirez of MM Racing whose time of 2:11.34 qualified him to top the first leg of the ROC.

He was closely followed by Mike Bautista who posted a time of 2:11.87 while Jigvan Alarmo's time of 2:14.56 enabled him to get a podium finish.

The next ROC event is set on Nov. 21-22.

THE CHEVY FNTC Racecar was built and designed like its WTCC sibling

Chevy takes more aggressive stance in RP

By Abigail Ho

TWO YEARS after going through the worst financial crisis in their history, General Motors is now back with a vengeance and has set its sights on the lucrative Southeast Asian market, the Philippines included.

For its Chevrolet brand, in particular, the car maker aims to shed its high-end persona in the country and cater to a wider market.

"We want to sell trucks to farmers and sell stylish mini cars to students," GM Thailand-Southeast Asia president Martin Apfel and its newest briefing.

He said broadening the Chevrolet portfolio in the Philippines was part of the brand's strategy to build its market base and become a more prominent player in the local auto industry.

The first step to achieving that goal was Chevrolet's entry into the lucrative commercial vehicles segment.

Selene Yu, executive director of Chevrolet local distributor The Covenant Car Co. Inc. (TCCCI), said plans were underway for Chevrolet to introduce more commercial vehicle models, beyond just the Captiva and high-end Suburban models.

"We're not yet in the pick-ups and [multi-purpose vehicle] segments. That's where we want to be," she said, adding that the Chevrolet Traverse would hit Philippine shores "soon."

The Traverse is a seven-seater, full-size crossover sport utility vehicle built on the GM Lambda platform.

Apfel said the Chevrolet Spark, a sub-compact sedan, would also be assembled in the country. GM is likewise planning to export trucks to the Philippines.

Over the next two years, TCCCI managing director and chief operating officer Alberto Ardila said 11 new Chevrolet dealerships would be built nationwide to support the brand's planned aggressive expansion in the country.

There were dealerships would augment TCCCI's current network of 32 dealerships, he said.

TCCCI in the first nine months sold around 1,400 units of Chevrolet vehicles, surpassing 2009's full-year sales of 1,213 units.

At the end of the year, TCCCI chairman Jose Gotiaoco said sales should hit at least 2,000 units, driven mostly by the Cruze and Beat/Beat+ Camaro models.

"GM is ready to reassert its leadership in the auto industry," he said. "Our efforts are aligned with GM's focus on the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]. The Philippines will define its first steps to the region's targets."

Apfel said Chevrolet's "ambitious" sales projection for only around 2 percent of global Chevrolet sales. This percentage should increase in the coming years, however, in line with GM's aggressive stance for the brand.

"Southeast Asia is the next big growth project for GM. We're pouring a lot of support into this region," he said. "We will go forward regardless of what customers over from other brands. Our key goal is to win market share."

As for the Philippine market, he said new Chevrolet models would be brought into the country to better enable the brand to compete with its more well-entrenched competitors.

"The barrier is low to entry into the Philippine market. The Philippines has a small share now, but you have to start where you are, grow as fast as you can. You can win with relationship building," he said.

GM Thailand-Southeast Asia president Martin Apfel (center) praising the recent Chevy Aveo sedan as GM Mall of Asia. With him are, from right, The Covenant Car Co., Inc. (TCCCI) executive director Selene Yu, TCCCI managing director and Chief Operating Officer Alex Alberto Ardila, GM director for ASEAN Regional Distribution Operations Chee Ting Chong and Wendy Dizon, president of Chevrolet dealer Advan Motor Inc.

MOTORING

The Do-All Subie

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

IF YOUR brand didn't invent the car, or if it didn't germinate in Uncle Sam's aberdynthic industrial backyard, then you've got a lot of catching up to do. That is a universal motoring truth—a bitter truth that Japanese, Koreans and even some European brands had to face up to, as Jonathan Woods writes in his book "Car Wars": When you're in a business that "makes engines, destroys economies and shapes history," then better be tough as nails. Or utes for the stars, as Ivan:

When Japanese brand Subaru first made its presence felt, though, it looked anything but cleansed for numbers. Its first car ever an unremarkable flat-like 360 model, Mati Stone, the legendary motoring journalist and executive editor of Motor Trend Magazine, described Subaru to its early years: A maker of "funny-looking durable little cars with all wheel drive, sometimes with turbo charging that mixed performance front input in bakwards."

Scathing remarks like these somehow must have sparked something inside the corporate wizards of Subaru, because before anyone knew it, Subaru was raising hell to the world rally circuit, going from "relative obscurity" to becoming a "legend in world rallying," in copycat online writer George Gasaul would remark. Subaru, seemingly ravaged by its successful stint, claimed six WRC titles and six manufacturers' titles, the last coming when it retired its brand from WRC, and 2009 when it retired from the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally.

From a piddling dwarf way to a motoring superhero, that pretty much sums up Subaru's history. The "funny little car" made a complete turnaround and has even gone full circle in Subaru's book "360 Cars You Have Driven," co-authored by John Moran.

With its string of WRC and FIA wins, Subaru, particularly its flagship Impreza, soon became a cult classic, drawing in a multitude of hard core fans. The Inspired WRX STI sedan—the street-legal version—has certainly been fulfilling every motorsports aficionado's fantasy of driving a WRC history-maker. Subaru today has a much-scaled down participation in motorsports—limiting its series to North American rallies and to the Japan Grand Touring circuit. On the mainstream commercial side, Subaru has chosen that is a serious player in the business when it introduced its line of SUVs, wagons and, gasp, even hatchbacks, in recent years. We gasp because it would seem that Subaru, in its effort to go as deep into the mainstream as possible, is reaching out for hands in its past. Such as in Hatchback days. In 2008, the launch of the WRX STI 5-door hatchback was like a catapult in some parties' eyes, and would make Isuzu motoring writer Jason Ang smirk that it was like "Superman showing up in a mini-skirt."

But it's still Superman.

And there are plenty of reasons for Mr-ing Impreza STI hatch proves Subaru in evolution mode

THE WRX STI hatch feels just at home on twisty back roads.

HIGH-STRENGTH lightweight 18-inch alloy wheels (left) while the rear spoiler on the hatch (above) leaves a lasting impression as the WRX STI zooms away.

Image Philippines—the exclusive distributor of Subaru vehicles in the Philippines—to bring in both Superman in hatch (the 5-door hatch), Subaru's 2011 model lineup includes the resurrected iconic look of the Subaru Impreza WRX STI four-door sedan (with the 6-speed manual transmission, complete with the rear wing, and the Impreza WRX STI hatchback (5-speed automatic trans). Both were developed with the concept of "the fastest WRX STI ever" with the finely-tuned suspension. Both underwent tests in Japan and at the Nurburgring track in Germany to ensure their newest drivers of total driving control (cornering, handling and overall vehicle stability).

The sedan boasts of a new wide body styling, a massive rear wing that improves aerodynamics and front and rear trunks that are 1.5 inches wider than previous models. The sedan has a reduced drag of 5 percent compared with the 5-door sports hatchback. The sedan is longer than the hatch (4540mm vs 4,415mm), but both have the same width and height (1,795mm and 1,475mm, respectively).

Despite the purists' concerns, Atsit de Asis of Motor Image Philippines says that the hatch "is gradually gaining acceptance in the Philippines."

So what's the catch since the hatch? When that writer took the Subaru WRX STI hatchback 5-speed AT for a spin, she did realize (but, believe), one would be conscious that he or she wasn't in the rally-inspired sedan body. But then, we are several decades, this one and that sedan basically had the same engine. Both had horizontally opposed, H-valve, 4-cylinder, 2,457 cc turbocharged DOHC powerplants.

While the sedan's 5-speed manual transmission would run rings around the 5-speed AT hatch on any track day, the hatch could easily outdo the sedan in daily drives, in the real world. Would your daily urban drive be so much more different if you drove the sedan, which has a max output of 221kW (300ps)/6000 rpm, vs the hatch, with its own max output of 221kW (300ps)/6500rpm? Would it mean more to the stop-and-go gridlock of city traffic if the maximum torque of the sedan was 407Nm /4000 rpm versus the hatch's 398nm/3000-6000rpm? It wouldn't, would it?

But would the 365-mm difference in length between the sedan and the hatch spell the difference between finding precious parking spaces and going round and round in circles? You bet it would.

And that's where this author begins to like the hatch version of the Impreza STI, and the overall direction of the Subaru brand. It's daring enough to break from its brand and, better tonight, image in order to lure in a younger crowd. This is. It doesn't have to be the first and fastest to get anywhere (and get dirtied and bruised up while at it). It only needs to keep its new precious cargo, the human drivers and passengers, as comfy as possible in an already stressful urban jungle.

Inside the Impreza STI, outsiders and enthusiasts are within easy grasp and comprehension. There's no need for second looks and guesses, because the makers of this car know that, sooner or later, when the driver hits the open road, the temptation to gun it will be too much to resist. That's why the cluster gauges are easy to read, the red backlights is

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Back to the raw, rustic and natural—but expertly made

Manila FAME's furniture and other export pieces mined handmade allure and bold colors

FLOOR lamps by Ann Pasamonte are made of beaded rattan wings, adorned with Iranian embroideries by the artist.

By Alec T. Vergara

DRAWING INSPIRATION mostly from nature, some of the country's leading exporters such as Tadeco, Evolve and Ilira Cebuana presented sunny-phoon and rustic-looking furniture and accent pieces at the recently concluded Manila FAME International show.

Now on its 20th year, the biannual trade show (every April and October) features some of the best locally produced home furnishing, accent pieces, garments, footwear and fashion accessories for the world market. The latest edition's overall theme is a continuation of the Japanese theme started in April.

Designer Silli Sherif, owner of Evolve, for instance, is creating the use of twisted rattan and incorporating it with more sustainable materials such as wood and high-quality linen to produce modern furniture pieces. Their modular quality is tempered by rustic, handmade touches that look back to the time when Asian furniture pieces, including those produced in the Philippines, were beginning to get noticed abroad.

The same twist, courtesy of rattan poles and twigs, can be a perfect foil to the smooth, straight lines that characterize Sherif's couch, coffee table and even decorative floor and overhead lamps.

"The look is rigid, as well as rustic," said Sherif. "The finish looks a bit rawer—more natural look."

Comfort zones

Apart from its staple throw pillows, Tadeco, which uses mainly rinalmi—a hyacinth variety of abaca—came up with wall hangings and various home accessories inspired by

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DESIGNER Mia Hanzi combines rustic and modern elements to come up with the latest modular showcase for Endrio. —NOTES BY ELMO KATIGBAK

FLOOR and hanging lamps by Endrio employ rattan.

Back to the raw, rustic and natural —but expertly made

OUTDOOR pod chair inspired by a bird, by Lucio Navarrete

FOR THE FIRST time in years, Lucio International unveiled its product line at Jangle-inspired outdoor stools.

From page C1

"organic" shapes that relieved ennui. Certain pieces combined circular with other materials, such as rare beads.

For the first time in many years, a number of furniture makers like Lucio International and artist Ana Fuentecaba also went out of their comfort zones by pioneering items done in a rainbow of bold colors.

"These two accent chairs were inspired by bangles," said Cindy Lucio of Lucio International, referring to a duo of outdoor stools with a series of circular legs wrapped in colorful polyethylene designed by Tony Cuneta.

"We also have pod chairs draped like leaves and wrapped in synthetic fibers."

Prismic & Bolt, a purveyor of so-called "campaign" furniture inspired by British colonial rule, produced chic space savers in the form of leather-embossed faux alligator chests and luggage that store shelves, portable dressers and folding beds.

More buyers

Dubbed by organizers as "Asia's Boutique Show" to set it apart from cheaper, mass-produced products featured in other regional shows, particularly in Hong Kong and Bangkok, the four-day event at the World Trade Center in Pasay City attracted a fair share of foreign buyers, who did the rounds of trade shows in Asia.

"It's only the second day today but there are more buyers compared to last April," said designer Rene Abeto, owner of Peter & Paul, producer of shell-encrusted mirrors and chests mainly for the Hotel Interior market.

"I guess this could be partly explained by the global economy which is slowly making a rebound."

Despite a seemingly more romantic, Abeto ramained his product mix to appeal to more buyers by offering them alternative home trade of cheaper but not necessarily inferior materials like capiz shells. Most theyve seen commonly than pricey black lip shells, capiz shells cost 20 percent less.

With no tsunamis, volcano to impede on travel, the show attracted more foreign buyers from Europe and elsewhere compared to the dismal visitor attendance last April, it also

MORE ON P2

WARMING Filipino designers' works, including those of Amira Aranas-Alazas, Jeremie Ang and Pony Quinones, are displayed in the lobby. Right, decorative boxes for the Middle East market by Atlivez, a company into Chinoiserie decor

PRISMIC & Bolt's faux luggage-concealing space-saving folding bed, which even comes with a pillow.

CLOCKWISE, from top left: These pillows made of tassels and coco beads echo Marimia dress patterns; organic-inspired lighting accessories perform in floral patterns. All products by Tadeo

3D TV latest product of 'total entertainment' company

By Alec T. Vergara

IT TOOK a while for Sony one of the world's leaders in entertainment technology, to launch its 3D TV. But the Bravia, Sony's line of high-definition 3D TVs, isn't just another metoo product, said people behind the Japanese brand.

Sony: It's also an HD TV, viewers can expect sharper, more life-like images with deeper dimensions while watching their favorite movies on 3D. The Bravia comes in 40-inch, 46-in and 55-in models. Sony's HMD team has also found a way to produce "frame-active" 3D glasses that isolate outside light and minimize flicker.

With this latest development, Sony now offers a "3D-world concept" or home-theater system that also includes complementary devices such as extensive 3D content, Sony Playstation or PS3 and the newest generation of Sony Cybershot cameras.

From HD television to PS3, Sony is at the forefront of 3D

The latter, particularly NX5, Alpha 33 and 33, are capable of taking swift panoramic shots in 3D. You have to plug the camera in a Bravia TV to fully appreciate the still 3D images.

"The 3D-world concept underscores our strength as a total entertainment company through Sony Pictures," said Alvin de Vera, director of Sony Philippines' inc's marketing communications division.

"Sony played a big part in developing Blu-ray technology. Apart from our edge in Blu-ray home theater systems, we're also behind Playstation."

In other words, the firm believes that nobody knows 3D content as much as Sony does

SONY Philippines Inc. officials Tjhai Marcelo, president, and Alvin de Vera, director for marketing, exec the Sony 3D world.

its experience goes beyond the hottest movies, but also includes the coolest video games to run on PS3.

Apart from investing in a Bravia TV, entertainment enthusiasts would normally have to buy a 3D-capable Bluray player to run their 3D DVDs. But Sony don't have to invest in a Bluray player if they already own a PS3, which, apart from video games, can also run 3D DVDs.

"You don't even have to go to Sony to have your PS3s reconfigured," said Dr Imu. "You can download and upgrade your firmware from the Internet."

In a grand launch at Shangri-la Mall's Republiq Super Club in New Port City in Pasay, Sony unveiled its latest products, including a holiday promo—ongoing until Jan. 31, 2011—dubbed "3D Days of Christmas" (details at www.sonyam.ph).

Apart from the chance of winning more Sony products, people can avail themselves of Sony's bundle deal through its holiday promo. Purchase of one Bravia 3D TV entitles them to such freebies as a PS3, three 3D DVDs—"Alice in Wonderland," "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and "Step Box"—and a four-in-one 3D video game.

The event's opening salvo featured shadow dancers with glow-in-the-dark props such as butterflies, birds, flowers and fishes that echoed the colorful and multi-layered world of 3D TV.

Even world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao was present, if only in spirit, as his hologram image congratulated brand officials led by Takao Kuroda, president of Sony Philippines Inc.

BELO Essentials' Cristalle Monsaro with Belo Men endorser Derek Ramsay

SAM PEREGRA, Cristalle Monsaro and BJ Francisco

SNAPCAM'S Virgie Ramos and Girlie Rodis

QUARK and Cristalle Monsaro with parents, Dr. Vicki Belo and Arnee Monsaro

MARICRIS Zobel, Andrew Gan, Vicki Belo and Jojo Diaz-Gang

"MAGANDANG" stars Gretchen Barretto and Derek Ramsay

ABS-CBN Philip Medina and Bobbie Tai

DEREK emerges from the bank parade.

GUESS who!

DOODIE Tacoma and me

MIMAI Angeles

LIZETTE Cojuangco

A hundred Derek Ramsays fog up new men's line launch

He's the ideal image model for Belo Men with his active lifestyle, well-sculpted body and tons of sex appeal

ONE HUNK is enough to get women shrieking and screaming, dabbings. But how about a hundred Derek Ramsays in one night?

Belo Essentials' salivating line for men, tabbed—what else?—Belo Men, had the ex-model/actor as its celebrity endorser when it was launched at the Intercontinental. The event was an interesting mix of upscale sexiness—high-society PDA, celebrities and media.

Friends included Josie Natori-Young, Derek's talent manager as well, who is the latest of this category-conscious hunk, with decorator Jackie Aquino dancing the affair.

And it was raining men! A parade of hunks serenading Derek, sexily and cuddly in his palatial pad, Ready Okite suggested a collective coup from the crowd, who seemed to see Derek in the hunk models and claiming the spotlight.

"My parents nearly had a heart attack when they heard that I would be a hundred Derek Ramsays tonight, because they couldn't even handle one," he said, laughing.

Surgeon Cristalle Belo-Henares, business wing of the popular Belo Essentials, welcomed Derek and explained the advantage of launching a whitening line for men.

Cristalle's cousin, Dr. Vicki Belo, chief dream dictator and brother Quark Henares were supportive as Cristalle.

Awesome were the TV commercials of Belo Men featuring Derek, all directed by Quark. They had all the gals sighing with delight. Kris-officiating Raya Mastrangeli was the excellent host. And handing the hosts of Eastern Inn were supportive parents Ramon Pamintuan and Ramsay, now known as "Derek's mom."

Derek, of course, is the ideal image model for Belo Men, dabbings, with his entire muscular, well-sculpted body and tons of sex appeal. The new line allows males to experience

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiz

Photos by Mary Ann Hagerty
presented by HAIR MAC CENTER

the benefits of the Belo brand, which has become a household name when it comes to cosmetic surgery and dermatology in this country, dabbings.

Royal send-off

There were "boy wonder" hushes everywhere for perhaps the most popular expat in the Philippines in recent years, Swiss Ambassador Claude Wyss. Old-old (that anyways who's not being evangelized in Davos, Switzerland) after a three-year stint in Manila.

Wyss who speaks flagalog and is often mistaken for a Filipino, is so loved by our country's society, the saloon and maestros, dentists and the media, dabbings.

Friends of his hosted a luncheon at Antonio's party at the Penthouse Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Most welcomed as dressed in a light blue shirt by Randy Diño, before changing into a brown in Hongkong.

Belo Rimmer, hotel GM, crowned the all-Filipino touch of the affair. Even the hotel chef prepared Wyss's favorite Filipino dishes—adobo, kare-kare, crispy pata, sinigang.

My paisanga Lund Schaaf of the Swiss Chamber of Commerce also presided in behalf of the hosts.

The royal sun reportedly organized by Wyss's close pal The Yap. Billionaire divo Becky Garcia and former model Karina Zobbian supervised the manicures of many who then said, "We wanted to give Wyss a send-off that he will forever remember, because we love him so much."

Wyss is so Pinoy—after all, he finished his high school at Colegio San Agustin and college at De La Salle University.

Jesuano Ruc, Ambassador of Peru-ple-Asia added, "Wyss has been Filipinized and probably had had a blood transfusion of [per 7 (Filipino)."

The Misses could some will not be the same without Wyss. We will surely miss you, palangga!

Saving while spending

Can one earn back hard-earned money spent on everyday expenses like groceries and subscriptions?

Believe it or not, paleontologists you can. Citibank, the world's largest and most trusted credit card issuer, has issued the Citi Cash Back Card, a rebate card that gives maximum savings on everyday purchases. It was introduced recently at a fun launch at the 18/F of The Fort Bonifacio Global City, explained to us, "With the new Citi Cash Back Card, we can help customers get great savings on their expenses."

During the presentation, it was said marketing Rio Mayuga explained that "Cardholders can get five percent rebate on all supermarket purchases at all petrol stations during the whole year. Rebates are also offered when paying for Meralco, PLDT landline and mobile bills every month, until Dec. 31."

Then the fun began, when the invitees were each given a huge grocery push cart was filled to the top with whatever there was on a two-minute mad shopping spree along these designated aisles stocked with everything from vitamins to hair products.

Wow! and more one another thing more exciting and fun is when the haul each began. We were laughing as we pushed and bumped into other carts, second to while grabbing for the same products at the same time.

That was really a one-of-a-kind launching. Then again, doesn't Citibank have one of the best value-for-money services with their cards? I must say, they do, palangga!

Log on to www.citibank.com.ph

DREAM TEAM: Donna Ramirez, Becky Garcia (2nd from the right) and Donna Zobian (right) with Derek. There's senior public relations and event manager Claudia Pelaez and Thai director Jirit Hirut Chaowarakul

CARLA Sibal

RYAN Bo Cabrera

JOY Ryu

CITI country head Ranjit Vidyarathi VP for cards marketing Rio Mayuga and country marketing director Cecille Poncian, during the launch of Citi rare Cash Back Card at G&S, The Fort

CITI'S Carissa Quidong and Maxine Carol's Jedrik Dupre

TIM 'dP' and Mae Chantarachit

DEAN Decker, Dr. Jon Olcos, Ben Kilauer and Jo Fong

MASTERCARD'S Chris Parsons, Mariles Lozano assistant VP and head of marketing programs Melinda Dacpo, PLDT VP Joel Ladaban, and PLDT assistant VP for magic and management Paolo Jose Lopez

CITIBANK'S magic marketing and acquiring bosses head Mina Gruenberg and Citi Cards products assistant VP Jong Layug

CITI'S Ria Aquino and Princess Magbuo, Maxine Carol's Rochelle Maniego and Citi's Joe Bongon

KHALED Mustafa and Joel Cruz

MERLYN BOY Bryant and Katrina Chu with Lani Schaaf

ERICK Ting and Tidy Ayuso

KATHY Poh and Cory Quirino

ABOVE: Chua-Bun ended up grabbing the biggest basket of items and the best products.

EVENT host Ricio Gloucester, Citi's Gale Geronimo, Jeliane Bata and Lukaine Jose

HAUTE divas, owner and designer of Peter & Paul, found a way of offering more affordable couture by using the common topic.

Back . . .

From page C1

helped that organizers stuck to the show's scheduled dates.

It takes at least one year for buyers to book flights and hotel accommodations. Organizers' decision to change show dates last April to align Manila FAME's run with other regional shows was ill-advised, said a long-time exhibitor who didn't want to be identified.

Focus on fashion

In the government's bid to develop the local fashion industry and position the Philippines as a "top fashion destination in Asia," Trade and Industry Sec. Gregory Domingo wants to focus more on the country's garments, footwear and accessories through a five-year program starting in 2011.

In his opening speech at the start of Manila FAME, Domingo announced that next year's show in April would be exclusively devoted to fashion, said Manila Int'l Int'l of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, DTI's promotional arm, in a text message.

Manila FAME, which would still be devoted to furniture and home accessories, will be held in October.

TWISTED wood fashioned into an armchair made by Jessi Farge

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ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emerita S. Velarde

Willie: Money or bad news?

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Arnold Almacen

ENOUGH with the bad news. It's time for stories of joy and hope."

This was the battle cry of controversial TV host Willie Revillame, whose newly launched game show "Willing Willie" on TV5 directly competes with the latter programs "TV Patrol" and "24 Oras" of ABS-CBN and GMA 7, respectively.

Speaking in Filipino, Revillame said his audience on the show's premiere episode on Saturday night: "We've had enough stories of rape, mass and drama and political unrest. There are topics we have at our dinner tables. It's time for change."

He reportedly gave away a total of P1.7 million in cash and gift prizes that night.

WILLIE Revillame, Willing contender

Revillame and TV5 chair Manny Pangilinan signed an agreement on August 10 to produce the show.

"Willing Willie," which is expected to boost TV5's performance in the ratings game, airs on weekdays at 6:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

For the years, Revillame hosted the top-rating noontime game show "Wowowee" on ABS-CBN. In May, he had a falling out with his Kapamilya bosses after his insistent outburst during the show in which he denounced his employer.

There was a festive atmosphere on the "Willing Willie" set at the newly renovated TV5 studio in Novaliches, Quezon City, much like the mood during the heyday of the now defunct "Wowowee."

Guests began arriving at 3 p.m. and were ushered into an air-conditioned waiting room. They were served roasted cashew and pigs.

The audience, carrying red Rosario (Revillame's hairdresser manager), corrupted reserved seats.

A short prayer was said for viewers before the show's live airing. A 10-minute video showed scenes during rehearsals, Revillame's comments.

MONEY B3

"AMA TALO" Losing proposition for Edu Manzano?

Less than winning TV comeback for Edu

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MAKE no mistake, Edu Manzano is one of the best programmers we have on television. So, when his latest comeback show "Ama Talo," was announced, we made it a point to catch its opening telecasts.

After nine episodes of the daytime game and quiz show, however, we have to curb our enthusiasm and come to the (hopefully temporary) conclusion that "Ama Talo" is only a partial success. What seems to be the problem?

We've thought about this quite a bit, and have decided that the drawback isn't Edu, but the nature of the show itself.

He submits that the premise's format, which encourages the studio audience to huddle in front-right (with the consonance to enable him into coming up with reminders answers to its quiz questions), imbues the show with a negative color or mood that doesn't sit well with Filipino viewers; it's too confrontational or "in your face" to agree with their more pacific, "kalsi" nature's.

We're familiar with the school of comedy known as the "comedy of insult," having been a fan in the States of Don Rickles and to other "nasty" exponents. But, "Ama Talo" still rubs us the wrong

LIFE B3

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MARQUEE MALL

Willie: Money or bad news?

From page D1

nigning with TV5 and his court room battle with ABS-CBN.

21 female dancers

Revillame entered the studio 30 minutes into the show. The 21-member WWLMD dance group knocked him up in his song rhe "Willing Willie" theme. Radio DJ Sin Twister acted as Willie's engineer/host.

Melody Valdez, Misha, Princess Ryan and Shower also performed in the opening segment.

TV5 talents who competed in the game segment "Family Ayte" were John Estrada, JC de Vera, Alex Gonzaga, Dimples Romana, Kean Cipriano, Heidi Pena, Carlo Aquino, Shaina Magdayao, Shaui Taylor, Katya Santos and JC Bonduria.

'For good luck'

Spotted among the studio audience were Revillame's daughter Meryll Soriano and grandson Elijah; his lawyer Leonard de Vera; cosmetic surgeon Vicki Belo and partner Hayden Kho; former actress Sharon Cuneta; actor Eddie Gutierrez, wife Annabelle and granddaughters Lotis and Stasia.

Gerald Delgado, a member of the Ifugao group Ginan Ginan Pecla Tribe, said each member received P1,000 as a gift from Revillame as the show's dance rehearsal on Oct. 23. "He said it was for luck," Delgado explained. "There were six other dance groups that performed with us for the opening number. They all received money from Willie."

Less than winning . . .

From page D1

way because it's too negative for the local TV context.

Another factor that makes viewing that program an uncomfortable experience is the fact that its hecklers, both professional and amateur, can't "unmask" to other hecklers they come up with in a thoroughly "satisfying" way, because they go against their Pinoy manners.

So, the most they can come up with are lukewarm and even tepid insults that don't sizzle and zinge—and, even worse, aren't really funny.

Another problem with the show is its focus on only one contestant for what sometimes is an inordinately long time. So, a particular referee stays or sticks depending on the kind of contestant being honored.

If the contestant is jealous and evasive the heckler's remarks remain and focus stay the show can "zing." Most often, however, the contestant turns out to be too phlegmatic, shy or nonconfrontational, so Edu can do little to "save" that particular scheme.

For these and other reasons, "Iam Tako" isn't as much "fleshed" fun as it obviously intends to be. To give it a better score in life, its third-rate scandal remains its options. If they go "total" all the way and choose former contestants and famous hecklers, or spy for another more "Pinoy-friendly" way of entertaining viewers.

Similarly, Edu should reassess the show and what it's doing for him. In our view, for drawing a heavy, but controversial choice of comeback vehicle. He's too good a talent to get sidetracked by subsidiary issues like his show not finding "right" for his viewers.

Unless these issues are addressed and remedied, the show, while sensationally diverting, could end up being a role (losing) proposition for everyone concerned.

Cesar Montano records Arnel Pineda compositions

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DANIEL PADILLA and JC de Vera, TVJ's newest love team, star in the series "My Driver Sweet Lover." Unlike other tandems, this one is not contrived. "What you see is what you get," says JC. "We are sincere to each other and to ourselves."

Daniel seconds the impression. "The best thing about us is we started out as good friends. We've seen each other at our worst and we still like what we see. We enjoy being around each other so and off cam." Friendship that turns into love is the best kind of all.

* * *

DJ Mo was unusually quiet during a "Pinoyamol" segment when JC de Vera and Daniel Padilla were cut guests. It seems the tension between him and JC because of Rhian Ramos hasn't subsided. JC and Rhian parted ways on a sour note. Since Rhian is closest to Mo's heart now, it's only natural that he's protective of her.

It was Mo's birthday episode and Rhian sent him a special message. Here's an excerpt: "There is no gift that can be bought, no other that can be baked, to thank you for making intimate people like me laugh. May we never stop learning. Happy Birthday my steadfast friend."

Are they steadfast friends, going steady?

* * *

My BFF Cesar Montano is set to go to record his new album. The so

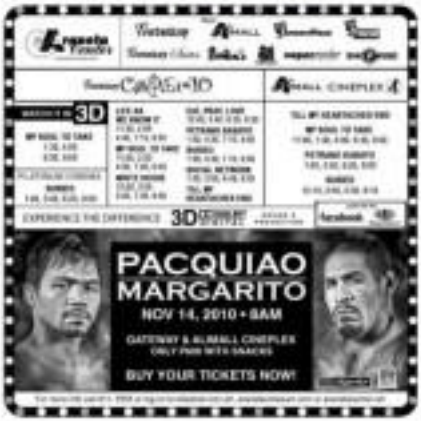
JC de Vera and Daniel Padilla started out as friendship.

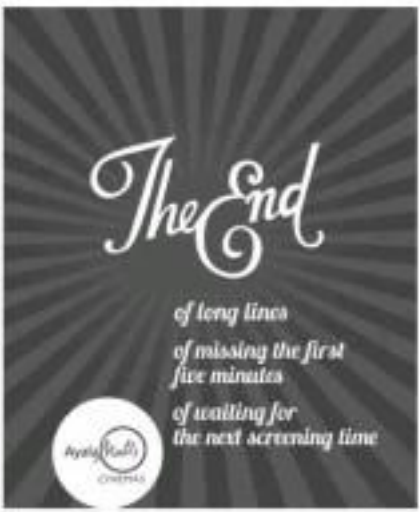
grateful to Arnel Pineda for giving me two of his compositions which will be included in my album," Buboy beams. "I also have my own compositions to it. Next to acting, singing is my passion. That's why I miss "Singing Bee." But who knows? I might have a program like that again soon, diangan." Our bonding session in his room in Bellevue can never be complete without Buboy belting his heart out.

* * *

I'm excited to be back on radio after my short-lived stint with dzMM. That's you in my new hunting in Mon 103.5 FM, especially Sarah Duterte, Andrew Santiago and Mr. Pu, for making me feel instantly at home. Tune in to my new show co-hosted by my beloved "Rajacid" Noel Barrer, dubbed "Showbiz Banque" every Sunday (3 p.m. to 12 p.m.). Chika is to and as the air!

E-mail: sunday.banquet@yahoo.com





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CHEER FACTOR

Twins for Dion, girl for Damon

LOS ANGELES—Singer Celine Dion and actor Matt Damon welcomed new additions to their respective families, representatives for the two entertainers said on Saturday.

Grammy-winner Dion, 42, gave birth to twin boys on Saturday by Caesarean section shortly after 11 a.m. at a Florida hospital, while actor Damon welcomed a baby girl with his wife, Luciana, earlier this week, his spokesperson told Reuters.

Dion, the Canadian-born singer, and husband Rene Angelil also have a 9-year-old son.

Damon, 40, and Luciana, 33, added daughter Stella Zavia Barroso to their family on Wednesday.

"Everyone is great," his spokesperson said.

The couple have two other daughters together—Isabella, 4, and Gia, 2—and are raising Luciana's daughter Alexia Umi, a previous marriage. Reuters

CELINE Dion gives birth to twin boys.

ENTERTAINMENT

Pretty Starlet's colleagues call her 'lunatic' and 'witch'

By the Entertainment staff

PRETTY Starlet has earned a slew of unflattering names from tiled colleagues. She has been called everything—from lunatic to witch.

It's because she has the nasty habit of badmouthing other stars in her home studio, particularly Realityo Sweetheart and Show Biz Scine.

PD Inciline PH and XO because she knows the two are very tite diany and decoer on pick a fight with her.

In any case, her unsavory reputation hasn't gone unnoticed. Even her supporters and handlers are aware of the girl's mean streak.

During a press event, her home studios reporters steered clear of her after she made them wait. The reporters instead chose attention on her blood-sucking Partner who was more accommodating.

All for show

Love affair of Cute Hunk and Beautiful Starlet was doomed from the start.

It seemed her bosses had instructed him to count her just to bank on their popularity as a tandem.

Now the bosses are said to be pressing CH as a solo act and will be launched in a big project soon.

But is CH likewise being paired with another Gorgeous Girl for another launcher, if ever?

Déjà vu

Sweet Starlet had to compete with Guy Universe for the affections of Otis Stud.

Now OS is seeing another guy, Archdiocesan Bolivar. But it seems history is repeating itself.

AA also had his fair share of Guy Bitterfaces in the past—including Crooned Millionaire.

To his credit, AA is kind to the guys in his life.

AA allows his discovery, Elderly Manager, to live rent free in one of his properties.

"WHAT'S wrong with me?" Gwyneth Paltrow opens up to CNN.

ROBERTO Benigni turns 58 today.

Loyalty for sale

Shoulder leader allegedly tried to borrow money from Popular Constituent who had to decline.

PC didn't have extra cash at the time.

SI turned to Controversial Personality who not only offered money, but a new car.

When PC and CP had a falling out, SI naturally sided with the latter.

'Glee' actress apologizes

LOS ANGELES—"Glee" actress Dianna Agron has apologized for any offense caused to young fans by a racy photo shoot for men's magazine GQ. She said the controversial picture "do(es) not represent who I am."

Agron, 24, who plays high school cheerleader Quinn in the hit TV musical comedy, said in a lengthy message on her blog that, "If you are hurt or think photos make you uncomfortable, it was never our intention."

The GQ photo shoot featuring Agron and "Glee" actress Lea Michele (finished in high heels and

DIANNA Agron, Cory Monteith and Lea Michele on GQ's November issue

sunny underwear in a high-school setting, was attacked by a US parents group and greeted with dismay by several TV writers and critics. Actor Cory Monteith (Finn) also took part.

"I have been a pretty tame and easy-going girl my whole life. So-body is perfect, and these photos do not represent who I am ... These aren't photos I am going to frame and put on my desk, but hey, now are any of the photos I take for magazines," Agron added. Reuters

Rushes

Paltrow on CNN

Gwyneth Paltrow on her post-nasal depression after giving birth to her second child Moses: "I just thought I am a terrible mother, a terrible person, how has this happened, what's wrong with me, I just don't feel well."

The Oscar-winning actress, currently in Hong Kong to shoot Steven Soderbergh's new movie "Contagion," sat down with CNN's Anjali Rao on Talk Asia and talked about her personal life, including her relationship with her parents, her marriage to Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin, her passion for acting and her ties to China.

The interview airs tonight at 7:30 p.m.; tomorrow at 12:30 a.m., Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.; Oct. 31 at 5:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; and Nov. 1 at 2:30 a.m.

It will also be available online at www.cnn.com/talkasia after the first airing.

Happy birthday!

• Today: Daniel-Geary Tolliver of the E Street Band is 61; actor-director Roberto Benigni is 58.

• Tomorrow: Dramatist Stephen Mortis of New Order is 55; actress Julia Roberts is 43; actor Joaquin Phoenix is 36.

• Oct. 29: Actor Richard Dreyfuss is 63; actress Winona Ryder is 39.

• Oct. 30: Singer Grace Slick is 71; bassist Timothy B. Schmit of The Eagles (and Poco) is 63; singer-guitarist Linda Ronstadt is 65. AP

Stop losing your hair. Regain your confidence!

For most women losing hair is like losing vibrancy, self-confidence and self-esteem. And this could lead to depression, anxiety and feelings of inferiority. Stop losing your hair. If there are women like Interior Designer Tessa Prieto-Valdez and Designer Eva Abesamis who fought and triumphed against hairloss – you can, too. Discover their secret.

Excessive stress, genes or too much extreme styling methods could cause women's hairloss. To stop falling and thinning, one needs the right treatments. In the Philippines, there's only one hairloss centre where advanced treatments and highly trained technologists are found: Svenson.

Tessa fought thinning hair as soon as she experienced its early signs. "Thinning hair makes a woman look older. I didn't want that to happen to me. When I noticed bits of hair on my pillow and my hair started to thin out, I immediately bought 'thickening' shampoos. But it was disappointed. They didn't stop my problem. Good thing I discovered Svenson. After a course of treatments, my hair regained its original volume. It's even softer, more lustrous. I could style it any way I want it!"

Tessa Prieto-Valdez

Eva Abesamis

Eva, on the other hand, wanted hair results for hair. "I didn't want to use other products. I just wanted the best. When a friend recommended Svenson, I decided to give it a try. I had no more falling hair. It's back to its lush, shiny, stunning look. I know I made the right decision. Thanks to Svenson!"

Stop falling and thinning hair. Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247) / 216-0051 (Cebu) today for a FREE consultation. You can be assured that all consultations are carried out in private.

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BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

RIKO PACHINE BY FRANCIS ABRERA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS ABRERA

TOO GOOD TODAY (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Stay focused on what's important, since there's a chance you'll be distracted by the presence of people, and you know how to make the things with your charisma. You need others to participate in your plans, so let your teammates feel you will lead to success.

Birthdays of Thursday: Humorist S.J. Perelman, actor John Cleese, actor Nicole Kidman.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your interest in travel and higher education, as well with publishing and the media will be strong now and for the rest of the year. You're going places!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expenses would cleared your way out early today during the next few months. You must explore and settle conflicts as soon until early next year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Work is running already super into your orgy, where it's going to stay until summer's over. Use your charisma. You need others to participate in your plans, so let your teammates feel you will lead to success.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some serious concerns, you're making solid spiritual work inside, for the rest of the year, you are going to after everything you've got to sustain projects and delegate as well!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have a playful mood. For new conditions, agencies and for those with children around you, you're going to be the star of the show.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Make resolutions and projects at home are likely to be so favorable for some of you in the next two months. Increased chance and negotiate with the employer or associates on work matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You're unusually comfortable in the next two months. This is particularly disappearing for you. Your relationships are cool, and you're charming.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your work-time schedules seems to get a boost now and in the next six weeks. Increased activity as well as communicating are likely. Stay in your active and connected!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You're inclined to and ready to extend. Today Mars is moving into your sign, where it will stay until December. This could boost your energy and your aggression. Yikes!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Decent interactions and private activities and like a driving force for many of you in the next few months. You're taking very positive attitude, aren't you?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Physical activity, especially in group situations, will delight you during the next six to eight weeks. However, arrangements with someone could lead to confusion. Be careful about this.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your ambition is energized! You've avoided this one really want to achieve in the past. This ambition should help you to improve issues and DTPs. Well, the sun.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

All the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at: www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

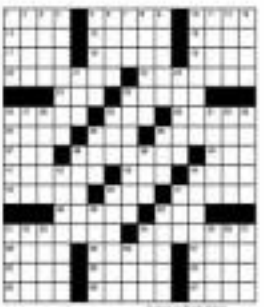
4	5	7	2	6	1	3	9	8
2	8	3	9	7	8	6	1	4
9	6	1	5	3	4	2	8	7
3	4	9	7	8	2	1	6	5
6	7	5	1	4	3	8	2	9
8	1	2	6	9	5	4	7	3
1	9	8	4	2	7	5	3	6
5	2	4	3	1	6	9	5	8
7	3	6	8	5	9	7	4	1

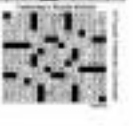
Concepts Sudoku By Mort Gleen

	5	7				3	9	
2			9		8			4
			5					7
			7					5
			1					2
		2					7	
	1					9		
5					3			
7	3	6	8		9	5	2	1

Difficulty level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





Opening Today

Lansang Lalaki

Directed by Jay Altarejos; stars Shaves Morales, Rowland Quan, Max Cruellado, Eric Pobre, Mark Peñeflor, Arjay Lorenzo, Ferraro Dacio.

The resto dream takes an unflinching look at the making of a gay-soft porn film and the lives of the people who work behind and in front of the camera. From the comic tune, behind "Ang Libro ni Antonio" and "Ang Lalaki sa Panda," that scene is described as "a marvelous exposé" on the how-tos of who bare their body on and off the set. It was recently appointed without cuts by the local Censors board.

Till My Heartaches End

Directed by Jose Javier Reyes; stars Rita Daza, Gerald Anderson, Boots Anson-Roa, Cecil Brodett, Mark Gil, Violet de Leon

High-strung girl (Daza) falls for an amateur jay (Anderson) and complications arise because of their different priorities in life. Director Reyes avers that "this is not a romance-flick" and marks a departure for the couple who most tackle "mature and complicated" relationship issues in the romance drama. "If you cherish emotion, you'll empathize with the girl; if you value logic, you will side with the guy."

The Social Network

Directed by David Fincher; stars Jesse Eisenberg, Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Armie Hammer, Rita Margolis, Steven Song

JUSTIN Timberlake

The genesis of Facebook is traced as its creators (Eisenberg) duels legal battles and social dilemmas. Financial Times' Nigel Andrews says: "It's a serious undertaking. The jubilee is intensive." Los Angeles Times' Kenneth Turan says it's "smartly written by Aaron Sorkin and directed with as inch of its life."

Buried

Directed by Rodrigo Cortez; stars Ryan Reynolds, Erik Palladino, Samantha Mathis, Stana Miles, Robert Paterson, Warner Loughlin

An American contractor (Reynolds), who is buried alive by terrorists in Iraq, must work with help mired by a lighter and a cell phone. Star Time Walt Feed's fellow family: "It's impressive and blisteringly successful as a technical feat." Los Angeles Weekly's Amy Nicholson: "There's just not enough material to sustain a 95-minute movie."

My Soul to Take (3D)

Directed by Wes Craven; stars Max Thieriot, John Magaro, Denzil McDaniel, Jeremy Ono, Emily Meade, Pauline Oloyemi; Raul Esparza

Ten seattle scientists from diverse seasons who were born on the night he died in a deeply town. Commercial Appeal's John Beifuss raves that it's "a typically ruthless and ruthlessly comic thriller." Sacramento News & Review states: "Craven's writing starts out not the top and just keeps climbing."

Stone

Directed by John Curran; stars Edward Norton, Robert De Niro, Milla Jovovich, Frances Conroy, Enver Gjokaj, Pepper Binkley

To win his freedom, jailed arsonist (Norton) asks his wife (Jovovich) to seduce parole officer (De Niro). Change To, hasn't Michael Phillips praised it as "genuinely odd in its absence of conventional narrative." "New York Times' Manohla Dargis comments: "It ended up advancing opportunists by denying pleasure."

EDWARD Norton

Paranormal Activity 2

Directed by Tod Williams; stars Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Sprague Grayden

A family installs security cameras that don't capture flames but instead catch ghastly goings-on. Entertainment Weekly's Owen Gleiberman points out: "Even when nothing is happening ... dread-alert shots tend to grow wonky the more you look at them."

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE SOCIAL NETWORK
2 LIFE AS WE KNOW IT / THE SOCIAL NETWORK
3 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2
4 KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL
2:00, 5:00, 8:00
TILL MY HEARTACHES END

Korean Film Festival
Shangri-la Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 TILL MY HEARTACHES END
2 THE SOCIAL NETWORK
3 BURIED
4 LIFE AS WE KNOW IT / RED
5 THE SOCIAL NETWORK
6 PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2
ULTRA CINEMA 7
LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

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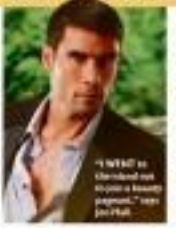
MOVIEWORLD

Jon Hall: Not Mr. Congeniality

By Marinell H. Cruz

HOST/Lucasfilm actor Jon Hall, the latest to be voted off from "Survivor Philippines: Celebrity Showdown," is convinced that the reality program makes him look like the bad guy.

"The show needed one and I was that guy," said Hall, who is among 16 castaways competing for the title "Pinoy Celebrity Sole Survivor" and a P1-million cash prize. He said he was aware of viewers' negative comments about him, he's been trying to explain his side through social networking websites.



"Very competitive"

"I went to play the game of 'Survivor' and not to join a beauty pageant. I wasn't fit. Competitively when I was there, I was very competitive," said Jon during interviews to promote "Spotlight," a fashion and variety show to-premiere at 8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ortigas City.

He added: "I may have gotten upset when it came to playing the challenges, but I would always apologize. I've got an ego back," he said. "I tried to join alliances, but nobody believed me. I was hated with everyone. I became lonely because I didn't want to leave things to the hands of somebody else. I told myself, 'If I'd lose the game, it would have to be my fault and not because somebody else ran my game made a mistake.'"

He pointed out that he felt bad on how the argument between him and fellow castaway Alonz Villena was shown on TV. "Some scenes were edited out to make me look grouchy. Alonz and I quarreled because he took the one that was meant for me, Jan Gutierrez and Michelle Madrigal, who is also his girlfriend). Alonz took our face but I appeared to be the one who was grouchy."

Jon further said Marian Rivera, GMA 7 assistant vice president for Public Affairs, insisted that the "Survivor" producers must make sure each castaway got fair treatment. "Everything was presented the way it really happened. We didn't favor anyone," she told reporters from tabloid on Friday.

Marian added: "I remembered when Jon came to me to ask if he could kill the water buffaloes and reptiles on the island. He told this because he said his teammates were hungry. I felt afraid for him. There are wild creatures and he could get hurt, or killed, he were trying to hunt them down."

Really scary

For his part, Albion observed that Hall was "so into the game": "He should have considered that he was in a show intended for a Pinoy audience. Pinoy viewers really get emotional ... I'm not the only one who noticed this. He was really scary."

Albion, however, said he was thankful for being on the same team as Jon before the Merges. In the beginning, the castaways were divided into three tribes. These were named after fearsome mythical beings: the two-eyed Mayari, the dragon Bagay, and Viking-based on the Matrix. During the Merger, all 16 tribalists became part of the tribe Galema, or the eagle warrior.

"The Negat team, which Jon leads, was really strong. It's not for him, I don't think I would be part of the Top 20," Villena stressed on Star Cinema's All Inn. Hall, who is Manila, we just laugh about what happened on the show. I am hope viewers would do the same."

"I'll Call Pa," (left) and "Paradise Murdered."

Top thrillers at Korean film fest

There's more to Asian horror than Sadako

By Rayzel Soi Diego Jr.

IS TIME for Halloween, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea is announcing a horror film festival this year at the Shangri-La Mall, starting today till Oct. 31, and Nov. 2 to 6.

Hyoung Joon Kim, counselor of the Korean embassy, told Inquirer Entertainment that the horror theme was suggested by journalists who attended the first festival held at the mall last year.

After all, it won Best Film "A Tale of Two Sisters" was released commercially in the Philippines in 2004.

This year's lineup consists of seven award-winning and commercially successful thrillers, said Kim.

Five are debut films (Jung Brothers' "Epitaph," Yoo-Kyung Kim's "The Ghost," Kang-hoon Ahn's "Nang," and Hee-min Kim's "Paradise Murdered.").

"They are some of the best, most popular and latest of the genre shown in the last six years or so," explained Kim.

"Paradise Murdered" was No. 1 in the box office in 2007.

More importantly, the embassy made sure to fly in the films in 35mm format. "I want viewers to experience these films in their full, big-screen glory."

What the critics say

The thrillers in the lineup have garnered generally positive reviews from critics, Kim remarked.

"Epitaph" won the Best New Director at the Busan Film Critics Awards. It's hailed by Beyond Hollywood.com for its "gorgeous cinematography and wonderfully composed shots."

Kim said its story is mostly set during the Japanese occupation of Korea in the 1940s. "Epitaph" recalls the "horrors and traumas of war" in a "visually and intellectually impressive" manner, according to Beyond Hollywood.com.

Indeed, there is more to Asian horror than fatalist of "The Ring" fame.

Then Film.com the first critic a twist in the "wet, long-haired female ghost" motif.

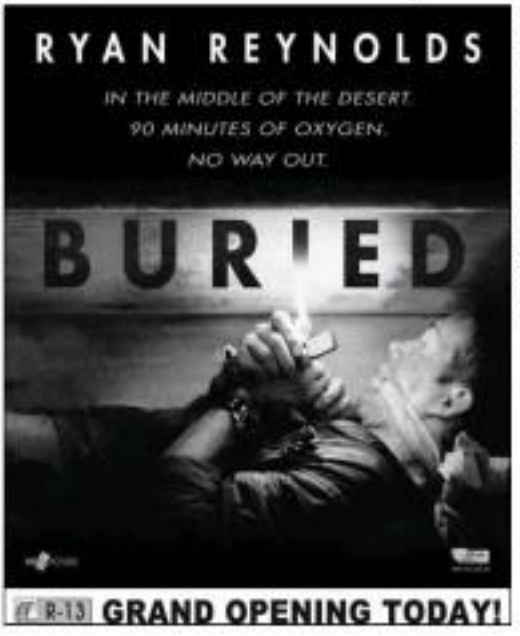
"The Ghost (Dear Friend)" is cited by eastbloodapple.com for its "attractive... good composition and rich horror imagery."

"Nang," which received an award at Korean film fair, is called "a stylish and well-made variation on the theme of a vengeful ghost" by Amazon.com's Paul Gaita.

Inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen children's story, Young-goon Kim's "The Red Shoes" is praised by Ghostsbloggerblog.com for its "weird and stylish gore."

Meanwhile, Pil-Sung Park's "Haunted and Cursed" is a dark retelling of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale. It won the Special Jury Award and the Orient Express Section Grand Prize in the Pusan post in International Film Fest in 2007. Movie-guidebloggers says it's a journey into "the dark side of human psyche and imagination."

Another noteworthy acclaimed thriller is Myoung-Ae Lee's "M" which was screened in the Vision section of the Busan International Film Festival in 2007. (WAHalan.com describes it as "highly stylistic psychothriller that explores classic themes."

Lastly, "Paradise Murdered," which was inspired by Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians," is commended by Twitchfilm.net, calling it "headlong an pure entertainment."

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